Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-159
Thursday
19 August 1993

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FBIS-SOV-93-159 *19 August 1993*

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'Democrats' Blamed for Farm Policy, Peasants' Plight

PM1808110193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 2

[Aleksey Snegirev report: "The Peasant Question. There Will Be Grain. Will There Also Be Food-Requisition Detachments?"]

[Text] **Ukraine**

It is easier to get down to familiar, necessary work when the grain is under a reliable roof. The crop farmers of Dnepropetrovsk, Poltava, Vinnitsa, Rovno, and Transcarpathian Oblasts can boast that. Preliminary estimates can also be made: Around 35 quintals per hectare has been obtained in Ukraine on average. Gross output has totaled over 32 million tonnes and state granaries have received over two-thirds of the grain order.

Kazakhstan

The Kazakhstan State Committee for Statistics is predicting an increase of two quintals to 15 quintals per hectare in the average grain crop yield this year compared to last year.

Kuban

Kuban has finished harvesting grain and pulse crops. Over 32 quintals of grain per hectare have been harvested, an increase of 2.5 quintals on last year.

Commentator's Opinion

I would remind you that back in the years of "stagnation" a PRAVDA writer wrote to the editorial office: "Our agriculture has been in a state of continual experiment for around 50 years now—first they amalgamate, then, on the contrary, they break up farms. Drought is bad, rain is bad. A poor harvest represents a disaster, as does a good harvest because there is nowhere to store the grain..."

This year seems to be a very good one. Reports are coming in from all over of 30-35 quintals of wheat being produced per hectare. Yet peasants are sounding the alarm, holding protest actions, and threatening to harvest the grain but not sell it to the state. Why?

Because the "democrats" have little understanding of agricultural matters and the government has no agrarian policy. In the last few years the amount of capital investment in the countryside has dropped by a factor of three, and a further 40-percent reduction is now expected.

The peasants are not demanding anything supernatural. They want to be allowed to work in peace, and they do not want to be ravaged by taxes and utterly ruined by preposterous prices for agricultural equipment, feed, and fertilizers. Nor do they want the grain that they have grown through their hard labors to be taken for a song.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Aug

LD1908063093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0551 GMT 19 Aug 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 19 ITAR-TASS—Today's newspapers front-page articles devoted to the second anniversary of the August 1991 events when a group of high-ranking party functionaries and statesmen forming the so-called State Emergency Committee attempted a state coup which was named "an August putsch".

In an article devoted to the second anniversary of the August 1991 coup, the army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA calls for prudence and calm and for preventing a repetition of past mistakes. "We must prevent another bloodshedding," the newspaper stresses. "Either it is a holiday or simply a commemoration date, this should not be a pretext for a new tragedy."

On the other hand, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper describes the events of August 1991 in a different way. It notes that "the court of law did not pinpoint concrete people guilty of those events when tanks rolled through Moscow two years ago. We start to treat the recent history ironically, may be, as it deserves".

Describing the events of August 19-21, 1991 in his article today, the newspaper's editor-in-chief Vitaliy Tretyakov calls them "our small home-brewed putsch" and "a sneer of history or magnanimity of lawlessness".

The TRUD newspaper features an interview with the last commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy, Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, given on August 21, 1991 when the coup was about to end in a flop.

The admiral called the coup a folly, describing in detail some events which preceded the putsch and his contacts with the then Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov, a member of the State Emergency Committee, who tried in vain to draw Chernavin in the coup.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper also examines events preceding the coup but for a longer period. The newspaper carries an article by former military flyer Leonid Velkodniy entitled "From April to August". The newspaper identifies his opinion with the opinion of the majority of the country's citizens.

The flyer sees the cause of the August 1991 events in "the Gorbachev era" which he calls "the tragedy of 1985-1991". The author describes the putsch as "the tragic farce of Gorbachevism", regarding the first and last Soviet president as a traitor of popular interests who destroyed the great nation.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper prints an interview with Mikhail Gorbachev who stresses that he "should make an explanation to the people" directly and describe his role in the events of August 1991 as well

as the political and economic course pursued by him when he held the highest party and government posts.

The Soviet ex-president flatly rejects accusations of destroying the Soviet Union and of betraying popular interests.

The PRAVDA newspaper describes "the victory of democrats on August 19-21, 1991" as a tragedy of the great power and its people. It writes that "it is useless to look for grandeur in the August days of 1991 when barricades appeared in Moscow.

"They are painted in the colour of a tragedy. The destruction of our great power began at that time. We witness blood and tears on its ruins."

PRAVDA writes at the same time that "two years have passed since that August, and the world has nearly forgotten about a great power". The Western press already writes "about an evident agony of the present political regime in Russia for the first time since August 1991".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA features a report from a news conference held by Russian Deputy Defence Minister Valeriy Mironov in Moscow on Wednesday. Mironov stressed that now "we speak about the survival of the Russian Armed Forces rather than about social protection".

The same newspaper prints an interview with Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov who pointed to the need for "remembering Russia's national priorities". If people lessen their attention to these priorities, such a situation will jeopardise Russia's interests and the interests of its national security.

ICO Delegation in Moscow for Talks on Bosnia

Views Sarajevo Agreement

LD1808150993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] A delegation from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] is expected in Moscow today, an unusual event. Vladimir Pasko, my colleague, reports from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Pasko recording] The delegation includes the Secretary General of the organization and the foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, and Tunisia. Reporting this, Foreign Ministry spokesman Karasin restricted himself to saying that the problem of a Bosnian settlement would be discussed. However, as you are aware, in its decisions the ICO advocates forceful intervention by the UN in settling the conflict and lifting the embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian government. Replying to questions from journalists, however, Karasin asked the press not to make hasty forecasts of the results of the talks. At the same time, he commended highly the accord reached in Geneva on placing the Bosnian capital Sarajevo and its suburbs under UN control.

On the basis of Foreign Ministry sources of information he reported that the Serbian side had effectively ended its blockade of Sarajevo; water, gas, and electricity were being supplied to the city; and UN convoys of humanitarian aid were getting through unhindered. You can imagine what relief this brings for the more than 300,000 inhabitants of Sarajevo, of which 230,000 are Muslims. Karasin didn't miss the opportunity of noting Russia's role in achieving the accord on this and the role of the cochairmen of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia. But he said that the main thing was still a political assessment of the accord. [end recording]

[Begin Karasin recording] The accords reached by the sides on Sarajevo once again reaffirm the productivity of the world community's line based on combining a hard approach toward fulfilling UN requirements and intensive political work with the parties to the conflict. I would like to stress that the sides' approach to carrying out the agreement on Sarajevo will, in our view, become a litmus test of their readiness to reach a lasting peace in Bosnia in practice. The future course of international steps in the Bosnian settlement will clearly be developed depending on this. [end recording]

[Begin Pasko recording] According to diplomats, the dynamics of Russian contacts on the Bosnian problem bear out that it's primarily a political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina that is at issue, and it's precisely on such a settlement that Russia is counting. [end recording]

Meets With Kozyrev

LD1908110593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Palariya, Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in Bosnia and the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis are at the center of attention of a meeting between Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's minister of foreign affairs, and a delegation from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which has started here in a Ministry of Foreign Affairs villa.

The Islamic Conference Organization is being represented at the Moscow meeting by Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the ICO, and foreign ministers Abdus Sattar of Pakistan, Hikmet Cetin of Turkey, and Ben Mustapha of Tunisia.

Prior to this meeting Andrey Kozyrev discussed with his counterpart from Pakistan Abdus Sattar matters concerning bilateral relations and Pakistan's role in settling the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Kozyrev Previews Meeting With Turkey's Cetin

LD1808172293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Rabkin]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug—We intend to discuss relations between Russia and Turkey, which are developing in a positive way, the situation on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, and other problems, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told an ITAR-TASS correspondent before meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who has arrived in Moscow.

We attach great significance to ties with Muslim states, Kozyrev stressed. He recalled that around 20 million Muslims live in Russia.

Hikmet Cetin spoke in favor of very close cooperation between Russia and Turkey on settling regional problems. The Turkish foreign minister arrived in Moscow today as part of a delegation from the Islamic Conference Organization, which will hold a meeting tomorrow with the head of the Russian foreign policy department.

Cetin Comments on Relations

TA1808182193 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow today. In a statement after the meeting, Cetin said:

[Begin Cetin recording] During the meeting, above all we assessed bilateral relations. We noted that Turkey and Russia are two important countries in the region and remarked that the further development of economic and political relations between the two countries will greatly contribute to regional stability and peace. [end recording]

Together with Cetin, the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Senegal, and Tunisia—comprising the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] delegation—will meet with Kozyrev tomorrow to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ICO initiative on Bosnia-Herzegovina is aimed at preserving the integrity of the country and finding a solution that will be acceptable to all sides.

Cetin Notes Agreement on Karabakh

TA1808193593 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has declared Turkey and Russia agree that preserving the existing borders is essential in solving the Azerbaijani problem. Cetin, who went to Moscow together with the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group to hold talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, held a news conference today.

Cetin said that during his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Russia recognized the fact that Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory. Cetin remarked that Turkey and Russia agree that the Armenians should immediately withdraw from the territories they have occupied without any conditions.

Cetin reported that he explained to Kozyrev the difficulties in using the Turkish straits to transport Central Asian, Caucasian, and Russian oil to world markets. Pointing out that the intelligent way to transport the oil to world markets is through the Mediterranean, Cetin stressed that Turkey does not insist on any specific place where the oil will be poured into the pipeline leading to the Mediterranean.

Cetin and the other ICO foreign ministers in the contact group will meet with Kozyrev again tomorrow to discuss Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Cetin Holds News Conference

LD1808215193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin held a news conference today in the residence of the Turkish ambassador in Moscow. It was devoted to the results of the first round of talks with Andrey Kozyrev. According to the minister, the conflict on the Tajik-Afghan border was discussed at the meeting at the Russian Foreign Ministry. Turkey thinks an urgent meeting of the two countries—Tajikistan and Afghanistan—is necessary for the settlement of the conflict. Touching upon events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Hikmet Cetin said that, despite the decisions of the UN Security Council and the CSCE, Armenia was continuing an armed invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh, which was part of Azerbaijani territory. Aggression cannot be encouraged, he stressed. In response to a question on whether Turkey intends to interfere in the conflict at Azerbaijan's request, Hikmet Cetin said it does not matter who does it. The main thing is to restore peace in the region. Turkey was engaged in talks with Armenia on these matters.

During the talks with Andrey Kozyrev, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was also discussed. As long as fighting continues and people are dying, peace talks are impossible, the Turkish minister said. A total of 200,000 people have recently died in the region. Many of them were Muslims. If it proves impossible to stop the hostilities, the interference of NATO forces will be inevitable. Meanwhile, regarding the Russian position against an air strike in the region by NATO forces, Hikmet Cetin said that in principle, there was no difference of opinion between Russia and Turkey in this matter.

Cetin Announces Ciller To Visit Moscow

TA1908120093 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1005 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, August 19 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said on Wednesday [18 August] that Premier Tansu Ciller will visit Moscow at the beginning of September.

In a Moscow press conference after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev, Cetin said that he and Kozyrev had agreed to intensify high-level visits between the two countries.

No date has yet been fixed for Premier Ciller's visit, during which she is expected to meet Russian Head of State Boris Yeltsin and Premier Victor Chernomyrdin.

During the talks, Cetin also reiterated President Suleyman Demirel's invitation to Yeltsin to visit Turkey.

The main topic of Cetin and Kozyrev's talk was the Armenian aggression in Azerbaijan. Kozyrev accepted that the Armenians had to withdraw from the land they had invaded, Cetin said.

Cetin quoted Kozyrev as telling him that "maintaining the existing Azeri borders and recognition of the fact that Karabakh is an Azeri territory" were imperative for a solution to the conflict.

Turkey defends the view that the clandestine republic declared by Armenians in Karabakh is unacceptable and that it is wrong to abolish the autonomous status of Karabakh.

Adamishin Details Approach to Bosnia Settlement

LD1808130193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] In Geneva talks continue on a settlement in Bosnia, and in that connection the First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin recalled Russia's stand on the problem in an interview for Radio Moscow International. What is today the chief objective of Russia's diplomacy as regards to the Bosnian crisis is of key importance. Here's what Anatoliy Adamishin has to say:

[Begin Adamishin recording, in Russian fading into English translation] In the past few months Russia's diplomacy has focused attention on settling the crisis by peaceful means, and I would say it showed an allergy to methods of force. I believe that a very correct way has been chosen, and not because we want to support any one side in the conflict.

When a civil war is going on, it is absolutely unproductive to support the position of any one side. We don't want to protect, say, the Serbs against the Croats or the Bosnians, because we are guided by feelings of kindredship to the Slavs.

Of course, one has to bear in mind the historical factor, but in this case we proceed first of all from the basic national interests of Russia. And what are they? Firstly, it is necessary to end the conflict as soon as possible. Therefore we support everything that helps do that, and that is whey we have welcomed the resumption of the talks in Geneva.

I doubt very much that anyone could prove to me that the bombing of the Serbian positions could lead to a speedy settlement of the conflict. I think it should be stressed once again, especially now when peace talks have started, that any forcible interference would reverse for a long time the entire negotiation process.

And it seems to me that the talks could bring tangible results at any moment. If somebody decided on an action of force that could indeed make the situation uncontrollable. It is quite clear that a forcible reaction is followed by a counterreaction on the other side, and then it is simply impossible to hold back the escalation. So, to my mind, the correct way is the one suggested and upheld by Russia, and that means putting emphasis on a political settlement on talks and mutual concessions.

We are trying to influence all sides involved in the conflict, that is in seeking a political solution. We also are taking advantage of the relations we have with the Serbs, which no other country has. And that is done in order to help a peaceful solution of the conflict.

I'd also recommend utilization of a more cautious approach rather than such a dangerous means of pressure as the threat of bombing raids and hitting air strikes. Such a rash approach does not contribute to a peaceful settlement.

Clinton Policy on Bombing Serbian Positions Viewed

PM1908084793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy commentary: "Will Clinton's Balkan Initiative Be 'Historic'?"]

[Text] The past two weeks in the international arena have unfurled against the backdrop of tremendous pressure from the U.S. President on his NATO allies with regard to the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Russia could not stand aside from this action.

The essence of this event, which has been dubbed the "Clinton initiative," is that the White House incumbent has proposed "unpicking" the extremely involved problem of the Balkan conflict—a problem that Europe has been unable to resolve for 18 months now—literally within the space of a few days. The radical means proposed was a massive bombing strike against Serbian military positions in Bosnia.

In their wisdom the NATO military leaders agreed to the proposal, but they made some amendments—the strike should not be massive, but phased and building in intensity. First a couple of bombs to achieve a purely psychological effect. Then a tough strike against artillery positions. And only after this should command posts, fuel dumps, and lines of communication be targeted. Those are the "merciful" tactics of gradually docking a cat's tail. Compared with them even Clinton's tactics seem "almost humane." There is no point expressing surprise, since the "wisdom" of the military has always been gospel in every country.

Nonetheless the old Russian proverb "it looked good on paper, but they forgot about the ravines that would have to be crossed" can be applied to both sets of tactics. The ravines have turned out to be deep.

The first to take fright were Paris and London—after all, it is their soldiers who are involved in the UN operations in the region. And it was primarily to them that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic addressed this statement: "If NATO aircraft launch even one strike against Serbian positions, you can forget about peace talks forever... I will probably be unable to restrain the Serbian central command from deciding to launch retaliatory strikes against the UN troops in Bosnia. There will be such an escalation of the war that the situation will get totally out of control."

Only Chancellor Kohl, whose anti-Serbian position has never altered, immediately and unconditionally supported the "Clinton initiative." It should be noted, however, that not everyone in Germany supports the chancellor's position. Thus, HANDELSBLAT, the influential organ of FRG business circles, wrote that implementation of the "Clinton initiative" could have lamentable results.

These views should be heeded. The Germans know what they are talking about. After all, Germany got so bogged down in Yugoslavia in 1941 that they were thrashed by the Yugoslav partisans right up to the very end of World War II.

It is gratifying that our foreign policy department, which has woken from its lethargy in this situation, has finally been able not only to discover its own contribution to this complex international political problem, but also to come out firmly against the use of military force in Bosnia. It may have been influenced in this decision by the fact that the Americans are insisting very strongly on the British and French soldiers in Bosnia being joined by no less than 2,000 Russian assault troops. But perhaps our foreign policy department has finally recognized that Russia has had and continues to have interests in the Balkans and that the country's leadership would have to adopt a tougher line in response to public pressure.

Quite a different issue keeps cropping up—is it a question of Yugoslavia and of the position of the Serbs?

Is not Washington, through its actions in the region, pursuing totally different goals that are by no means humanitarian—obtaining a chance for the United States to control the "soft underbelly" of Europe (as Churchill once called the Balkans)? Will it work? If it does, then NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner was right to call the decision imposed by Washington "historic."

U.S. Ambassador Pickering Visits Pacific Fleet

LD1908102893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, August 19 (TASS)—American Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering, who is touring Far Eastern Russia, visited the large anti-submarine ship "Admiral Vinogradov", one of the best ships in the Russian Pacific Fleet.

Thomas Pickering, a former navy officer himself, easily found a common language with the ship's commanding officer and the crew. The ambassador praised the ship and expressed gratitude to the company for the warm welcome accepted to him and a hope for a further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He wrote a note of thanks in the ship's book for honorary visitors.

Defector: 1,000 Americans Worked for Soviet Intelligence

LD1808220293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] American authorities are questioning a Russian defector who asserts that about 1,000 Americans were working not so long ago for the Soviet intelligence service. His statements may cause a great scandal in the United States because the police have always asserted that Soviet intelligence activities were on a much smaller scale.

Fedorov Denies 'U.S. Income' Charge, Intends To Sue

PM1808124193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Mikhail Berger report: "Vice Premier Boris Fedorov Refutes Charge of Earning U.S. Income"]

[Text] As soon as it was reported that after being appointed vice premier Boris Fedorov would retain Russia's World Bank directorship, the newspapers have been constantly discussing whether the vice premier would also retain his salary as World Bank director.

Boris Fedorov himself has repeatedly stated from the very first day that he started work in the government that he had given up his director's pay. Nonetheless, public interest in Fedorov's likely Washington income is not diminishing. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA (No. 95) recently reported that the vice premier was not only on vacation in Washington but had invited his family to share a rented villa costing $20,000 a month. Fedorov's son, according to the same SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA report, is studying at a private college, and his wife has been "set up" at a foundation which comes under "CIA patronage."

Our correspondent, Aleksandr Shalnev, managed to learn through unofficial channels in Washington that on the day the ruble exchange was announced Boris Fedorov had tendered his resignation as World Bank director. No official confirmation or denial of this report was forthcoming, nor was there any clarification about other questions regarding Fedorov's material position at the bank's headquarters.

We contacted Fedorov and he confirmed that he was giving up his World Bank directorship and had submitted his resignation when he was in Washington recently. But he admitted than he had not wanted to make this widely known before the bank's next annual meeting in September, when the question of his successor will be decided.

As for the other information—specifically, that disseminated by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA—Fedorov stated that he intends to sue the newspaper for libel. He does not rent a house in Washington and his family have long lived with him in Moscow. Incidentally, only a very sick imagination could dream up accommodations that rent for almost the salary of the U.S. President. Despite wanting to, his nine-year-old son was unable to study at a college even when the Fedorovs lived in the United States. He was not old enough. The vice premier said that his wife, Olga, had not worked for any foundation and had never worked in the United States.

Fedorov also said that he was fed up having to constantly explain himself on the subject of nonexistent overseas income.

Chernomyrdin Reiterates Remarks on Japan Territorial Issue

OW1808123093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1209 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia, Aug. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin reiterated Wednesday [18 August] that no territorial dispute exists between Japan and Russia and that Russia will reject negotiations with Japan on the matter.

Chernomyrdin told local government officials that his remarks Tuesday were the Russian cabinet's "official position."

Chernomyrdin, who is now visiting Russian far eastern regions to study problems facing the free economic zone, held talks with local leaders, including Sakhalin chief administrator Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov.

The prime minister told reporters later, "We have no territorial problems now," adding "as long as the present (Russian) cabinet exists, we will never hand over any part of our territories."

Chernomyrdin said, however, he would welcome visits by Japanese to the four Russian-held islands claimed by Japan, with a hope for further expanding exchanges between peoples living on the islands and Japan.

In Moscow, Vyacheslav Kostikov, a spokesman for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, issued a statement that appeared to confirm Chernomyrdin's remarks.

"Russia is pursuing a well-coordinated policy on the basis of strong governmental solidarity," the statement said.

On Tuesday, Russia's INTERFAX news agency quoted Chernomyrdin as telling Japanese television reporters that the territorial issue was "nonexistent" as far as he was concerned.

Another Russian news agency ITAR-TASS quoted the premier as saying the question of sovereignty over what Japan calls its northern territories was "not on the agenda."

Chernomyrdin made the comment after visiting Etorofu, one of the four disputed islands.

Besides Etorofu, Japan has demanded that Russia return Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets, which were seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

In Tokyo, the Japanese Government expressed grave concern over Chernomyrdin's remarks.

"If Chernomyrdin's reported remarks are true, they contradict the basic policy of the Russian Government and are extremely regrettable," said a statement issued by Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada.

The statement said the Japanese Government is seeking confirmation of the remarks by the Russian Government through diplomatic channels.

It pointed out that the Russian Government has repeatedly made clear its position of aiming to realize full normalization of bilateral relations through the removal of obstacles rooted in the past, including the territorial issue.

Yeltsin reconfirmed that stance during his visit last month to Tokyo, in which he also said the territorial issue would be on the agenda of his official visit to Japan planned for mid-October, the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry's statement made no reference to subsequent remarks made Tuesday by Yeltsin's spokesman that a 1956 Russo-Japanese accord suggesting eventual return of two of the four disputed islands off Hokkaido has become "unrealistic" to implement.

Anatoliy Krasikov suggested in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Russia would not honor the 1956 joint declaration, which calls for the reversion of the Habomai group and Shikotan Island to Japan following the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Russian Vice Foreign Minister Gregoriy Kunadze is expected to visit Japan next week for talks with senior Japanese officials on Yeltsin's planned trip to Tokyo.

Yeltsin Press Secretary Adresses Issue

PM1808161893 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the general heading "Kuril Pluralism": "B. Yeltsin"]

[Text] The Russian Federation president's press secretary issued a statement today on the "territorial question": "As preparations go ahead for Russian President B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Japan, more and more opinions and commentaries are appearing in the press and in politicians' statements in connection with the 'territorial question.' Domestic events in Russia and Japan undoubtedly are stimulating the debate and the quest for new approaches to this problem. Russia pursues a unified and coordinated domestic and foreign policy on the basis of profound and strong governmental solidarity.

"Russian President B.N. Yeltsin believes that the further development and expansion of economic and political cooperation between Russia and Japan is the means and the mechanism for preparing 'steps toward political evolution' in resolving the most complex questions of relations between Japan and Russia."

'Tougher Line' May Mean Postponing Yeltsin Trip

PM1808175093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Moscow Takes Tougher Line in Territorial Dispute With Japan. Further Postponement of Yeltsin Visit Not Ruled Out in Tokyo"]

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin's statement that the four islands of the Kuril chain that are claimed by Japan will never be handed back to it has been received extremely badly in Tokyo. For the Japanese authorities, the prime minister's words were further evidence of Moscow taking a tougher line in the territorial dispute.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry has demanded clarification from the Russian Government. While waiting for Moscow's response, Tokyo, according to news agencies' reports, is working on two possible scenarios for retaliatory actions. If President Yeltsin and the Russian Foreign Ministry dissociate themselves from Chernomyrdin's remarks, the matter can be quietly allowed to slide, by explaining to public opinion—as a spokesman for the Japanese foreign policy department has already tried to do—that the "head of government represents the conservative wing of the Russian leadership, and his opinion does not reflect Moscow's official stance."

However, the other option appears more likely. The Japanese mass media, in their commentaries, take the view that Chernomyrdin's words were no accident. These words testify to a change in Yeltsin's own approach to the territorial problem, now that he is obliged, on the eve of the crucial power struggle with parliament, to take into account the feelings of the Russians, who are opposed to the handover of the islands. In that case another cooling of Russian-Japanese relations can hardly be avoided. "Chernomyrdin's statement could lead to a third postponement of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan, planned for October," a KYODO observer concludes.

At official level, the Japanese are as yet avoiding any tough statements or hints at a postponement of the visit. However, if the change in the Russian approach becomes really apparent, Yeltsin's trip to the Land of the Rising Sun will probably not take place. Moscow can hardly expect the new coalition government of Morihiro Hosokawa to take a softer line on the "northern territories" than its predecessors in the Liberal Democratic administration.

Afghan Ambassador in Moscow Grants Interview

LD1808195093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS—Abdulwahab Asefi, Afghan ambassador to Russia, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on the eve of the 74th anniversary of Afghanistan's independence that Afghanistan comes out for the development of mutually advantageous cooperation with Russia and expressed confidence that in perspective, bilateral relations would steadily develop and deepen in all fields.

Touching upon the problem of the return home of four Russian and one Kazakh border guards captured by Afghan mojahedeens on the Tajik border, the ambassador said that in the main, this problem had been resolved positively. He said that at present, the border guards are in a region difficult for access, but they would return home by all means. He added that the Afghan Government would make all possible efforts to this end.

According to the ambassador, a recent visit of Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala to Tajikistan, during which questions of reinforcing the Tajik-Afghan border and the refugee problem were discussed, created conditions for holding a summit meeting between Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Tajik Parliamentary Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov. The ambassador pointed out that this meeting might take place in the near future.

The ambassador said that the day before he had a telephone conversation with the Afghan foreign minister who is currently on a visit to Pakistan. Asefi said the foreign minister told him that the Afghan leadership is prepared to cooperate with the Tajik side to resolve all problems.

The ambassador pointed out that Afghanistan is interested in friendly relations with Tajikistan and does not intend to interfere in internal affairs of this sovereign state. At the same time he pointed out that both on the Tajik and Afghan sides there are groups not subordinate to the central leadership and that these groups deliberately create conditions for worsening Tajik-Afghan relations. In the ambassador's opinion, the latest evidence of this is the August 14 attack on the Afghan consulate in Tajikistan, as a result of which one man died.

Kozyrev Discusses Afghan Situation With Tajik Premier

LD1808190093 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov had an unscheduled meeting in Moscow. They discussed issues relating to the internal political situation in Tajikistan, its relations with Afghanistan, and joint diplomatic measures toward Afghanistan.

During the meeting, it was proposed to hold negotiations with all interested parties, including the opposition forces, to stabilize the situation in the country.

The Tajikistan Embassy in Moscow told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that both sides had similar views on all matters discussed. [passage omitted]

Talks With Afghan Opposition Urged

MK1708121593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 4

[Oleg Medvedev commentary: "Situation in Tajikistan; Kabul Is Unable To Control Situation Along the Border"]

[Excerpts] Tajikistan and Afghanistan have stated their intention to solve the existing bilateral problems through political means alone. This is stated in a communique circulated Sunday on the outcome of the four-day negotiations between the two countries' chiefs of foreign policy. In a situation where Kabul officially admits its inability to control the situation in the northern provinces bordering on Tajikistan, a dialogue with Kabul authorities seems of little use. KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent Oleg Medvedev comments on the situation. [passage omitted]

The Afghan minister recognized in the final communique the already obvious fact: Kabul does not control the situation along the border. One can only wonder why time is being wasted on talks with the Kabul regime when it acknowledges its own impotence? If there should be a dialogue at all, it should be for decorum's sake; one should try to come to agreement with those who really control the border territories. So that these talks may be successful, there should be material outlays, and they will have to be shouldered by Moscow once it has chosen to retain its geopolitical domination in Tajikistan.

Afghanistan's part in a settlement to the Tajik conflict is one of the main points in the plan approved by the CIS heads meeting in Moscow 10 days ago. It is more than obvious today that it would be an uphill task to come to agreement with a state that is a de jure state and exerts only nominal central authority. No practical steps have been taken by those who are supposed to take them to implement yet another point in the above plan—dialogue inside Tajikistan. Dushanbe officials have so far taken no measures to put talks on track with the opposition, which traditionally and until this day is termed as "band formations." The officials have of late declined to hold any talks with the "Dushanbe regime" and want to solve all questions with Moscow alone. The question of whether the opposition would be able to speak with any kind of a united voice remains open. [passage omitted]

Russia is increasingly sinking into the "Tajik morass" while prospects for a fast peace in Tajikistan are growing ever more illusory. Forces involved in the conflict do not seem ripe for peace yet, and Russia remains hostage to these forces regardless of which side it took or will take. Russia is now obviously making multichannel efforts for a political settlement in Tajikistan, and we know about far from all of its steps, because excessive publicity is out of place here.

In addition to diplomatic steps at this stage, one should, without a doubt, build up the present CIS border and the military presence in Tajikistan. Pulling out now would appear to be fleeing in panic. But one should even now be getting ready to pull out in the future because measures being taken in regard to a settlement are of course no sure thing, and developments could turn out to be as unfavorable for Russia as they were once in Afghanistan. Tajik society is too complex for Russia to comprehend, and all the more so if Russia wants to bring a measure of order to it. Therefore evacuation from Tajikistan should be started even now of Russians and Russian-speaking people, and the new border should even today be strengthened. One cannot live and care not for tomorrow, especially in such a "hot spot."

'Understanding' Reached With Ukraine on Missiles

LD1808121993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Ukraine and Russia have reached understanding on the question of dismantling nuclear weapons that have remained on the territory of Ukraine after the breakup of the Soviet Union. This has been announced by Russia's Minister for Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhaylov. He was on the delegation that held talks on the problem in Kiev. The minister said the two sides came to terms on the main principles of compensating Ukraine for the dismantling and for nuclear materials. He categorically denied that Ukraine could soon become a nuclear power.

'Crucial Breakthrough' Achieved

PM1808135193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Kiev Refutes Kozyrev's Statement. Moscow Calls For Situation Not To Be Dramatized"]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev's statement in Stockholm that a "crucial breakthrough" had been achieved in the Russo-Ukrainian nuclear weapons talks and that an agreement on dismantling the missiles located on Ukrainian territory would be signed in the near future has provoked a stormy response in Kiev.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov categorically denied what Kozyrev said, telling a REUTER correspondent that "this was the first time he had heard" of the impending signing of an agreement on nuclear weapons and that no official talks had been held with Moscow on this matter. "It would be premature to talk about any treaty with Russia on nuclear weapons," the head of the Ukrainian diplomatic service, Anatoliy Zlenko said.

At the same time, in the opinion of interlocutors within the Russian Foreign Ministry, Kozyrev was not that far from the truth when he spoke of the text of an agreement that has been made ready for signing. "A treaty on the future of the nuclear weapons in Ukraine could have

been signed on three occasions: on 14 June during Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's visit to Kiev; a few days later during his trip to Kharkov; and, last, 10 July during the meeting of the Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian heads of government in Moscow. Each time the Ukrainians avoided signing at the last moment, even though the documents had been coordinated and there were no differences of opinion in principle," a Foreign Ministry diplomat responsible for Russo-Ukrainian relations said. He expressed amazement in connection with Konstantin Morozov's claim that Moscow and Kiev have held no official talks on nuclear weapons.

In the opinion of another interlocutor, the Ukrainians' cautious stance at the talks with Russia is due to the tricky domestic political situation in the country: "There are influential forces among Supreme Soviet deputies and within the government demanding that Ukraine should be a nuclear power. There is every indication that Kravchuk is being forced to take their opinion into consideration."

However, this diplomat believes that the situation should not be dramatized: "It is in the interests not only of Moscow but also of Kiev that a treaty be signed most speedily. The Ukrainian parliament must ultimately ratify the START I agreement. It will be far harder to get Kiev to accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

The question of the future of the missiles in Ukraine will undoubtedly be one of the main ones on the agenda at the upcoming meeting between Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk. The date and place of the "summit" have not yet been announced. According to reports from Smolensk Square [Foreign Ministry] sources, the presidents will most likely meet during the first half of September in Ukraine.

Government Suspends Troop Withdrawal From Lithuania

LD1808202293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has issued an instruction on the temporary suspension of the troops' withdrawal from Lithuania. According to an RIA report, such a step was taken after the round of routine talks at which the Lithuanian side presented a new variant of the draft agreement containing demands that were unacceptable to Russia. Provisions outlining Lithuania's obligations with regard to the Russian servicemen on the territory of the republic were omitted from the draft. The withdrawal of troops, notes the Defense Ministry, will be resumed after a mutually-acceptable agreement on this question is reached and the appropriate official document to that effect is signed.

Yeltsin, Belarus' Shushkevich Hold Talks on Ruble Zone

LD1908102093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Aug—President of Russia Boris Yeltsin and Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, met in the Kremlin today. The agenda of the meeting has not been officially announced, but judging by the fact that Viktor Gerashchenko, chairman of Russia's Central Bank, is also attending the meeting, one can presume that they will discuss the principles of Belarus participation in the ruble zone.

Stanislav Shushkevich considers his trip to Moscow so important that he cut short his vacation. Before leaving, he told journalists in Minsk that the republic is still in favor of remaining in the ruble zone. "We would like to be in the ruble zone on normal market conditions. Russia has held the ruble-dollar exchange rate for a sufficiently long time. There are clear signs of stabilization," the head of the Belarus parliament said.

During the news conference, it was announced that part of the technical credits given by Russia to Belarus will be transferred into cash in order to boost Belarus talons, which have recently lost a lot of their value in relation to the Russian ruble.

Khasbulatov's 'Hasty Visit' to Baku Canceled

PM1808122193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Vladimir Larin report: "Khasbulatov Failed To Make the Six His Trump Card"]

[Text] For several hours our correspondent waited for the flight out to Baku—Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov's press service had invited journalists to take part in the parliamentary speaker's visit. However, no confirmation came from the Azerbaijani capital that it was ready to receive the speaker. The visit, announced so unexpectedly, came to an end just as unexpectedly. So what happened in Baku at the last moment?

According to informed sources in the Azerbaijan government, the aim of R. Khasbulatov's visit was to "rescue six former Russian soldiers" captured fighting on the Armenian side during the hostilities and accused of being mercenaries. Azerbaijan is known to have had a fairly humane attitude (so far) toward Russian mercenaries, but at the last minute, Baku wondered: Isn't the aim of this very hasty visit an attempt by Khasbulatov to obtain some trump cards in the political fight against President Yeltsin? Won't this latest act of charity on Azerbaijan's part serve to further split Russian society into "patriots" and "democrats"? Is there any need to be in such a hurry?

However, the answer given to Khasbulatov was, of course, different. According to reports from the same sources, it spoke of "the inexpediency of a visit before the end of August and the referendum on confidence in President Elchibey."

At the same time there is reason to believe that the six convicts will be turned over before the end of August—the situation on the front is now close to catastrophic, and Armenian troops are already on the outskirts of Agdam. Azerbaijan is in dire need of the world community's support...

Yeltsin's 24 Aug Visit to Poland Previewed

PM1808154993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 6

[Correspondent Mikhail Tretyakov report: "A Week Before the Visit: Boris Yeltsin Expected in Polish Capital 24 August"]

[Text] Warsaw, 17 Aug—The report that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will arrive in the Polish capital on an official visit on the evening of 24 August was, from a certain standpoint, a sensation in Warsaw political circles. The point is that the Russian Federation president was expected here at the end of October. Polish Foreign Ministry staffers are being urgently recalled from vacation, and the sides are holding consultations on the itinerary of the visit. In principle, Yeltsin will spend just one day in Warsaw. On 26 August he will fly to Bratislava and then visit Prague. That is the preliminary schedule.

Why preliminary? Because the Poles, who have have learned from bitter experience—the dates of the Russian president's visit to Warsaw having been changed several times—do not rule out that it could also happen this time. The political situation in Moscow is too unstable. And recent statements by Yeltsin himself that August is to be a "month of softening-up by artillery" (against, it has to be understood, Russian parliamentary [illegible]ons) "prior to a decisive battle in September" in no way indicate a normalization of the situation in Russia.

So why, then, has the date of Yeltsin's visit to Poland been brought forward? Some local commentators are ironically saying that the Russian president is coming to study how to dissolve parliament. Indeed, at the end of May, Lech Walesa did dissolve the Sejm and the Senate, which had been unable to form a new government. But, in so doing, he acted strictly within the Constitution, so the experience is not appropriate.

Since last year's visit to Moscow by the Polish president virtually nothing has happened at the Warsaw-Moscow level, GAZETA WYBORCZA remarks. Clearly, Moscow today does have an interest in improving relations with Poland. Hence the haste over Yeltsin's visit to Warsaw.

In the political sphere the prerequisites for the development of relations have been created as a result of the signing of the interstate treaty. But there still remain restraining factors in the economic sphere. In the Polish side's opinion, one of the main factors holding back Russian-Polish trade collaboration is the lack of regulation of reciprocal debts, which, according to some estimates, range from $7-7.5 billion.

The Russian side favors the zero option in clearing the reciprocal debts enshrined in relevant documents, which would enable trade to be carried out on a clean slate, as it were. This practice has already been employed in regulating debts with Prague and Budapest. Will Poland accept such a proposal?

Warsaw has an interest in Yeltsin's signing the Russian-Polish agreement on constructing a gas pipeline along which our gas will be pumped to the West across Poland. This is a very big contract worth $3 billion in which both sides have an interest. The signing of a number of other bilateral documents, including a customs agreement, is also planned.

I do not think it is any secret that without a Russian-Polish summit meeting it is difficult to talk about any progress in political and economic relations between Moscow and Warsaw. I would like to believe that the Russian president's long-awaited visit to Poland will finally take place and that it will give the go-ahead to the development of bilateral ties.

Russian-Dutch Enterprise Designs Siberian Gas Deposit

LD1908064493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0640 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Belyaev]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—Another step has been made to develop a natural gas deposit on the Yamal peninsula in western Siberia. The Pitergaz enterprise, the headquarters of which is situated in the Dutch city of Leiden, undertook to draft a design to lay down a pipeline across the Baidaratskaya Bay, a Kara Sea gulf.

Pitergaz is an enterprise set up by Gazprom over a year ago, a Russian joint stock society, and Hirema, a group of Dutch companies, specialising in sea construction. The group won a tender for the right to make the design work.

Hirema offered more favourable conditions to the Russian joint stock society for laying down the pipeline across the bay.

This is an important step in preparing for construction. Gazprom fulfilled all the previous work concerning prospecting and geological surveying. Using Gazprom's materials, Pitergaz defined all necessary things for laying down two runs of the underwater gas pipeline, calculated the time of construction and its cost.

Now Pitergaz and Hirema will work out all details for the project.

Previous plans provided for the construction of the Yamal pipeline (six runs of pipes 1,420 milimeters wide each), detouring the sea bay and bringing it closer to the Chum-Labytnangi railway.

The construction of such a pipeline would take thousands of hectares of very vulnerable tundra. Therefore, Gazprom decided to build the pipeline across the bay.

The Baidaratskaya Bay is no more than 25 meters deep along the route of construction, and the distance between the eastern and western coasts is 70 kilometers. The construction schedule provides for building the two runs of the pipeline across the bay in 1996.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Statement, News Conference on 19 Aug Coup Anniversary

LD1908091093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Opening statement and news conference by President Boris Yeltsin on the anniversary of 19 August 1991 coup attempt in the Kremlin; news conference mediated by Yeltsin's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov with questions by identified and unidentified correspondents—live]

[Text] Esteemed journalists, ladies and gentlemen, friends. Our meeting today is taking place on the second anniversary of the August coup, or rather the attempted coup, and our victory over it. The events of 19-21 August 1991 have a particular importance. That was perhaps the most difficult moment in all of our country's postwar history. The question of whether the reforms in Russia were to be or not to be, whether Russia was to be democratic or not was decided then, in the full sense of the word. No attempts to cast doubts on the noble impulse of many thousands of the Russian people, who had come to the defense of democracy and freedom, will be able to wipe out the truth. The whole world held its breath at the time, watching to see how events would develop. We literally now know about every hour and every minute of the fateful days of August 1991. It is mainly thanks to you, journalists, thanks to your courage and devotion to your professional duty. I would like to take this opportunity today to sincerely thank you and all your colleagues who, at a critical time, did not betray Russia and were with your people up to the end.

Two years—moments to go down in history. It was precisely at that time I recall that I was on my way to the White House from Arkhangelsk. In other words, the surge to the White House had already taken place. But for a human life this is quite a long time. I am especially grateful to those people who subsequently have continued to maintain their loyalty to the ideals that they were prepared to defend, even at the price of their lives.

Unfortunately, two years have passed and the court has not yet pronounced its verdict on the organizers of the putsch; but no one should doubt that the country will not let it pass into oblivion and that justice will triumph without fail. Today Russia is going through a difficult time. It was only by having begun the reforms in the proper way that we realized how difficult this business was. Let us not paint too rosy a picture. A reversal is still possible at present; a reactionary turnaround that will render all the efforts made since August 1991 futile is possible. I do, however, firmly believe that this time Russia and its citizens will not let it pass. Like many people in the world, we will be able to endure the painful trials and tribulations of this age of transition. We know how to restore the personal dignity of Russian citizens and the dignity of Russia.

I regard this period as one of gathering forces for the powerful rise that I am convinced awaits our state. Everything depends on how we use this potential—I believe that this time we will use it rationally. Today, concrete and difficult work on transformation is under way. The whole of Russia is moving, reforms have become a reality. Despite the great delays and difficulties, people have kept their faith in the choice made in August. The fact that we have maintained civil peace and stability in Russian society bears witness to this.

The situation in the upper echelons of power in our state is different. Here, a deep rift has appeared, a crisis that threatens not only Russia's national interests, but also peace of mind in the world community. The referendum in fact determined the outcome of this struggle; but it has not ended. On the contrary, it has worsened dramatically. It is precisely for this reason that I, as president, have a choice to make today—to put into effect the will of the people, who have expressed their support for the continuation of reform, or, regardless of this will, to allow the Supreme Soviet to ignore the opinion of the people and destroy Russian statehood. We are talking not only about the base rhetoric that has become the norm at sessions, nor only about the political decisions—legislative activity itself is increasingly becoming a factor destabilizing society. The adoption of laws and amendments to them, that not only slow down reform but block it, has become an ordinary daily practice.

The Supreme Soviet is making colossal efforts to block the constitutional process. The old, defective practice of carrying amendments to the current constitution is confirmed. I do not think there is any point in talking about the nature of such amendments.

The Supreme Soviet has been gripped by an anything-goes euphoria. If a certain television broadcast is not to their liking, the law is changed. If the Council of Ministers is not to their liking, amendments to another law are immediately forthcoming. If a certain statesman is not to their liking, an impediment is erected. Already after the April referendum, more than 20 acts were adopted, directly contravening the will of the people.

It is a shameful fact that within the walls of the Russian House of the Soviets it has become a tradition to fire volleys of insults and abuse at ministers. Take for instance the so-called procedure of approving—or to be more precise, of not approving Marshal Shaposhnikov in the post of Security Council secretary! The organizers of famous carnage sessions [raznosy] in the former Communist Party Central Committee could envy that mean show. There is only one conclusion: The activities of the parliament have taken on an anti-popular nature; they increasingly threaten the security of Russia, and this sort of practice must be stopped. It shames the country before the whole world; it inflicts one blow after another at the foundations of the Russian state and discredits the legislative authority itself.

The constitutional and political crisis, whose symptoms are obvious to everybody, has been dragging on for too long. It considerably restricts the possibilities of constructive and reform-orientated activity in Russia. One can only regret that the House of the Soviets, the White House, at the walls of which citizens of Russia stood up for freedom and democracy two years ago, has turned into a bulwark of revanchist forces today. We have closely approached the issue of holding parliamentary elections. I am stressing that we are talking not about disbanding the Supreme Soviet, or removing one of the branches of authority, but about democratic elections to a federal parliament, about creating such a parliament. I see this as a solution to the situation of dual power and a most acute political crisis and, I stress, it is a peaceful and democratic solution.

It is clear to the majority of Russian citizens and politicians that we have to free ourselves from the old fetters of the lingering old-time state and political monopolism. It is embodied now, primarily, in the supreme bodies of Soviet power. It is clear to everyone that Russia needs a new democratic political system and a new Constitution. Of course, it would be ideal if we could both adopt a new constitution and hold elections this autumn. But let us be realistic. The problems that we face cannot be solved at once. Take for instance the issue of federation structure alone! Political reform should be implemented stage-by-stage, simultaneously with a stage-by-stage adoption of the Constitution.

Every opportunity should be used to take diverse interests into consideration and to ensure guarantees that the political reforms are irreversible. It is for this reason that the Federation Council is being formed. At this stage, it could become a guarantor of reform, could take on responsibility for its implementation, and could initiate all the legitimate means for putting the reform into practice. The mechanism for taking interests into consideration and for preparing constitutional provisions has already begun to work—it is the Constitutional Conference. It should be used further, with the involvement of Constitutional commission.

However, the economy is our top priority. Political solutions are needed primarily in order to clear the channels for economic reforms, and consequently for the normalization of life as a whole in Russia. We all know how dramatic the start of the reforms was, and how very difficult the situation is in which the government has to work. Let us face up to the truth. Gaydar's government worked in relatively calm conditions for some three months before the Sixth Congress. Chernomyrdin's government did not even have that.

We are swimming to the opposite shore, struggling through a powerful current and waves, while numerous well-wishers shout to us that we are not using the right swimming stroke. Ignoring the results of the referendum, but fearing to encroach directly on a socioeconomic course backed by the people, [some] are trying to wreck it through political means. Now, when the government at last has a program, when the priorities have been set for the whole of the immediate period, for the next two to three years, when it is clear what has to be done and how, this pressure has increased enormously. Our reforms will be doomed unless we get out of the political crisis.

I have already spoke several times about the 1993 budget adopted by the Supreme Soviet. But as this topic remains a burning one to this day, let me touch on it once again. Statements to the effect that the Supreme Soviet was allegedly forced to increase the financing of social expenditure in the budget do not correspond to the facts. On the contrary, the government version envisaged a 68 percent increase in financing for social and cultural measures, while the Supreme Soviet's [increase] was 43 percent. On defense spending the increases were (?0.3 and 0.1-fold) respectively. This makes it impossible to overcome inflation.

On the contrary, it undoubtedly condemns the ruble to sharp devaluation. The people of Russia have already realized full well that this can only lead to price rises. They have realized that inflation is the most cruel and ruthless thief. It robs every household, and it ruins Russia.

It has to be acknowledged that so far, the government too has not arranged proper and effective coordination of all its departments to fight inflation and to stabilize the finance system. I would like to emphasize that this is the Council of Ministers most important task. Not one member of the cabinet is allowed to swerve from finance policy priorities.

Our meeting is taking place at the time of harvesting. You know that this year we have a good harvest. It is obvious that to gather it in substantial sums of money are needed, and so far they are in very short supply. So we are forced to resort to additional spending.

At the same time we have acquired new opportunities to develop market relations in the agricultural sector. In particular it is a question of stepping up the transformation of the whole system of agricultural product purchasing, renouncing the mandatory state order, forming a good and stable grain market, limiting the role of state purchases and making them highly attractive, and, finally, cutting grain imports. Indeed, there will be a substantial cut in grain imports. I have already sent relevant proposals to the government, and they are now being studied.

I would like to touch upon one other important issue. Another session of the Russian Federation Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission for Fighting Corruption and Crime was held yesterday. In a way it was decisive for the struggle against the cancerous tumor of corruption in the top echelons of power. Two issues were examined. The first was on measures aimed at preventing the activity of criminal gangs in the Russian Federation—and there are several thousands of them;

the second was the commission chairman's report on checking the incidents of corruption among top officials of the Russian Federation.

The facts and documents of special importance relating to high-ranking state officials, which were presented by the commission, are simply staggering. But the damage inflicted on the state should not be estimated merely in terms of rubles or hard currency. Much more dangerous is the fact that only individuals who abuse their official position are being discovered, but the machinery created to disrupt organized crime as a whole is being diverted into a wrong channel. Of course, the work is not completed yet. In the near future we are going to consider another package of such materials. But it is absolutely clear now that there is no such thing as so-called pure corruption; it is inseparable from deep moral degradation.

Concluding my brief introductory speech, I would like to say the following. As the head of state, I regard the following as priority aspects of my work at the present stage: Continuing economic reform, developing the constitutional process and [calling] early parliamentary elections, combating crime and corruption, ensuring state security and establishing new statehood; strengthening the federation, the one and indivisible Russia, and its ties with the Commonwealth states.

I have given only a rough outline of some problems, taking into account the fact that the central role at news conferences is played by journalists; you are to ask questions here and I shall merely answer them. But first, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate you once again on the occasion of this holiday, and on the fact that two years ago all of us, the citizens of Russia, with a concerted effort defended democracy and prevented the night of dictatorship descending on Russia again. I also wish you a happy religious holiday—the feast of transfiguration. Thank you.

[Kostikov] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich. Dear colleagues, let us begin our question and answer session. The first is Talalayev of the ITAR-TASS agency. Will you please ask only one question each because there are unusually many people here today, so that as many of them as possible can have a chance to ask a question. Thank you.

[Talalayev] Boris Nikolayevich, in your opinion, what scenario will developments in Russia follow with regard to solving the problem of diarchy?

[Yeltsin] I have been holding numerous consultations with politicians, lawyers and other experts on this matter lately, and will continue to do so. A plan of action is being drawn up. It spans some two and one-half months. The remaining part of August will be artillery preparation, as I call it. Then there will be September, the most crucial month, then October, and possibly part of November.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, very many questions have been submitted by Japanese newspapers and television companies. This one, for example—we can all guess why it it is being asked. I give the floor to a representative of the KYODO TSUSHIN agency.

[KYODO correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, during his tour of the Far East, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the territorial problem did not exist any longer between Japan [and Russia]. He said this was his official statement as the chairman of the government. Can his words be interpreted as a departure from the official position of Russia and the Russian leadership which acknowledges that the issue does exist? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] You know that the visit by the Russian president to Japan is being prepared. Of course, it will not be postponed for the second time. You know that the Japanese side is also preparing options on this score and we are also, of course, preparing several options on this score. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin mentioned merely one of many options which are being considered for the president's trip to Japan.

[Kostikov] INTERFAX, Grishchenko.

[Grishchenko] Boris Nikolayevich, your phrase that the country's political life in September was going to be full of fighting is being interpreted by everyone in the same light; as a statement with a note of alarm in it. But perhaps we should look at the matter from a different angle? Maybe the president has his own intensive program for leading the country toward social and political peace during this period? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] First of all, I would like to respond to certain facts allegedly being presented as the truth in the mass media, to the effect that troops are approaching Moscow. Certain political figures are already using this for speculative interests. If we recall any event—be it the August [August 1991] events, or 12 June [event referred to unidentified, possibly the Constitutional Conference], or some other events, or the congress—rumors always begin about troops or tanks being concentrated around Moscow; somebody has already seen tanks and soldiers, armored vehicles and so on and so forth.

Nothing of the sort is the case, and by a fighting September, I did not mean anything connected with the Army. I meant fighting in the political sense, in the sense that in July and August, both throughout the world and here, political life always, usually, quiets down a little. So, in September it is going to be much more active, politically speaking. That is what I meant. Serious political struggle will begin because I am going to—naturally, by using various means—I am going to insist on early parliamentary elections. A new Russia cannot have a parliament like this, this cannot be.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, there are several questions from Polish journalists. I invite the correspondent from Polish Television to speak.

[Correspondent] [question inaudible]

[Kostikov] Excuse me, use the microphone.

[Correspondent] Will President Yeltsin's visit to Poland take place in August, and if so, do you think that, for example, your visit could become a pretext for provocations by extremist forces in your country? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Eh?

[Kostikov] Will the visit take place in August, and are you worried that during your absence extremists here will stage provocations?

[Yeltsin] Well, if you are scared of the wolves, you should not go into the forest. The president's work has to proceed both within Russia and on the foreign policy aspect. This is a scheduled visit, an official visit to Poland, and a working visit to the Czech Republic and to Slovakia, lasting 48 hours. Nothing will happen in 48 hours. I am convinced that this visit will definitely take place. On the evening of the 24th I fly out to Warsaw.

[Kostikov] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich. IZVESTIYA, Vasiliy Kononenko.

[Kononenko] Mr. President, you said yesterday that you will be seeking to hold parliamentary elections. Earlier, when talking about this you did not rule out involvement by the Supreme Soviet in holding such elections. Are you preparing the required message to the Supreme Soviet about elections this autumn, and how do you visualize putting these plans into action if they are rejected by the Supreme Soviet? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Yes, I am preparing proposals to this effect and they will be sent to the Supreme Soviet over the next few days. I assume this initiative will be rejected. My corresponding moves, following this, have been calculated, verified and set down on paper; I have them but I do not think I should talk about them today.

[Kostikov] I have questions from...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] In connection with visits to Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, there is one more thing. Nobody as yet knows about it, not even Kostikov, so I'm also saying this for his benefit, but we agreed yesterday that on 3 September Russian and Ukraine delegations will meet in the Crimea to discuss the whole spectrum of our relations. All of it: civilian issues, military issues, the Navy, etc. We agreed on this with Kravchuk.

[Kostikov] I have a question from the major, one of the major U.S. newspapers, the LOS ANGELES TIMES. Unfortunately, he did not give his name when writing his note, but I can let him ask his question if he is here [voice heard in hall] pass the microphone over there, please.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Boris Nikolayevich, a question from the LOS ANGELES TIMES. Russia has just gone through a unique period in its history, the past two years. I would like to find out what, in your opinion, was the greatest mistake committed either by yourself or your team during this period. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] That new parliamentary elections were not called immediately [sporadic applause]. It has taken us two years to get round to it. We should have done it immediately.

[Kostikov] A question from Ostankino Television, Sergey Shatunov.

[Shatunov] Mr. President, your attitude regarding Khasbulatov's suggestion to set up a government of national trust [pravitelstvo natsionalnogo doveriya], with various parties and movements taking part, as proposed by various politicians, including some in opposition.

[Yeltsin] You see, I have little faith now in the sincerity of such proposals. On a personal level, I cannot respond at all to the tenor of his statements, speeches and so on. As a politician, though, I must use, of course, the constructive things that are there, and of course we will study this proposal and whether such a government can be created.

[Kostikov] Samy Omar, Egypt, please.

[Omar] Boris Nikolayevich, some people perceive yesterday's conclusions announced by the Interdepartmental Commission for Fighting Corruption as an act of revenge aimed at some members of the president's team. What can you say to this, Mr. President?

[Yeltsin] I think that nobody—I am convinced of this—nobody should be protected if he has violated the law. It is not important therefore, whether he is a friend, colleague, member of the opposition, rival, or someone else. If we have obtained documentary evidence of a crime that has been committed, justice bodies must deal with it in accordance with the law, whoever is involved. If the president turns out to be involved, then he should be dealt with, too; this is envisaged in the Constitution. As recently as yesterday I said that I intended to firmly implement order, to establish order in Russia in all areas, not only in fighting crime, corruption or bribe-taking, but in all areas, including political, economic, and so on.

[Kostikov] In addition to television viewers, we have millions of radio listeners, the next question therefore is from Yuliy Semenov, Mayak correspondent.

[Semenov] Thank you. Boris Nikolayevich, Turkmenistan President Niyazov and Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Shevardnadze have put forward the idea of holding a meeting of heads of state of former Union republics; that is, on an even wider basis than the CIS. What is your attitude to this idea, and do you think that there is a real basis for such a meeting?

[Yeltsin] I think that a meeting between CIS countries leaders on 7 September is very important for us. We have decided to meet on 7 September to generally sum up the

results of everything that has been done by our Commonwealth and, at the same time, to reflect on how we can achieve more cooperation with one another, how to arrange closer work, closer interaction, and so on. I think that this meeting will be more important than this idea that has not yet been tried out with anyone, with the leaders of the former Union republics. This idea is still very raw.

[Kostikov] Present among us are representatives of the Slovak press; over to the press agency of the Slovak republic.

[Correspondent] Igor (Pokornitel) the Press Agency. Mr. President, in connection with the fact that a visit to the Slovak republic has been agreed, I would like to ask about the treaty, the major political treaty between Slovakia and Russia. The Slovak side objects to the references to 1968 in the preamble of the treaty, and some political forces in Slovakia also object to this now and demand that Russia, as the legal successor to the Soviet Union, should make compensation available for the 20-year stay of Soviet troops on the territory of Slovakia. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Russia is neither here nor there. Just as the Slovaks, we became victims of a totalitarian regime, and Russia also suffered, no less than Slovakia. These are the actions of the former Soviet Union. However, we are ready to acknowledge, in the preamble, that the year 1968, the invasion of the Soviet tanks, contradicts all international legal acts and that we condemn it. We can not apologize for it, because it was not our action. I think that when we meet the Slovak leadership, we will arrive at appropriate formulae in the treaty, so that the treaty can be signed.

[Kostikov] Since the visit will be to Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, I think it would be fair to let the Czech journalists ask a question. Are there any of them here? No? Let us proceed, then.

[Kostikov] Markov, RIA Novosti.

[Markov] Boris Nikolayevich, returning to the situation inside our country. You said that you would look at the proposal to set up a government of national accord. You emphasized the role of the Federation Council. There is to be a joint session of the Constitutional Commission and the Constitutional Assembly. Do you believe it is possible, by moving in this direction, to reach some sort of compromise on the elections too? What significance do you attach to these moves?

[Yeltsin] I do not believe that the Supreme Soviet itself adopted the resolution on early elections.

[Kostikov] Zaripov, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

[Zaripov] Zaripov, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

[Yeltsin] Can I congratulate you on the award first of all...

[Zaripov] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich...

[Yeltsin, continuing] ...that I presented him with yesterday, as I did many other journalists—the Defender of Free Russia award.

[Zaripov] That is the main thing, many of us were presented with this. I believe that many sitting in this hall also deserve this. They worked alongside me, and it just happened that I received it, so to speak. Now I would like to get right back to the theme of today's discussion.

To put it briefly, there was a time when Damocles cut the Gordian knot with one swipe of his sword. Judging by your statement, you are following this principle; I refer here to your latest statement. How are you going to achieve the results of the referendum, i.e. early parliamentary elections, that your opponents oppose. That is the first thing. Second, I would like to know how you see parliament in the future, and how the Federation Council fits in here? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Regarding the future Federation Assembly [as heard], it will be bicameral. The Upper Chamber will be the Chamber of Representatives. The 88 republics of the Federation will each have one person in the representative legislature, and one in the executive authority. There will be an elected State Duma. This time the elections will be conducted very actively and here is the reason why.

Business people have come to realize that politics is getting in their way and they want to play a part in it and assume power. They want to sit in parliament. There will be no limits on how many peasants, how many workers, how many journalists we can have, how many in each category, you see. The elections will be free. Therefore, I think that it will be a very businesslike and intellectual parliament that will be very beneficial for Russia and its reforms.

The Federation Council? The Federation Council is the prototype of the upper parliamentary chamber. This is how it is to be established, and it will be set up in the near future as the Council of the Republics, the Council of the Heads of Republics has already adopted a resolution on this. You know, it happened in Petrazavodsk.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, you have mentioned the growing political activity of business people. Now on the same theme, we have a question from the correspondent Veronika Kutsila of the KOMMERSANT newspaper. The floor is yours.

[Kutsila] Boris Nikolayevich, although it is thought that in the next two and one-half months there will be no need to use troops anywhere, quite a lot probably depends on the extent to which the force structures will be loyal and manageable. In view of this, do you intend to appoint a new security minister in the near future? If I am not mistaken, in about a week's time it will be one month since Viktor Barannikov's dismissal. Who would

you like to see in this role, and what will you do if the Supreme Soviet turns down your nomination? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I certainly have a serious dilemma before me, and it has been nagging me all this time. The right man should be professional, he should not be an alien in that milieu. I would not like to repeat earlier mistakes, when people appointed to this post were chosen from among politicians. But at the same time, it should be a nominee to whom the Supreme Soviet would not be allergic. So, maneuvering through all these vectors, all these specifications on the nominee, I have certainly compiled a certain list of such people in my mind. But I do not think you will press me to give you the name here and now. At least the nominee himself ought to be the first to hear about it. But still I think that it will happen in August. It cannot be delayed any further. By September, we need a stable minister to be firmly in command there.

[Kostikov] There is a question from the TANJUG agency. Mr. Milosevic, isn't it? Go ahead.

[Milosevic] It is well known that Russia is playing a major and positive part in resolving the Yugoslav conflict. What do you think of the present situation in the former Yugoslavia and at the Geneva talks? Do you think that time has now come to lift sanctions from Yugoslavia, which is not acting as aggressor in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and which is meeting the demands of the international community? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I believe that the situation there is at present developing normally, more or less along the lines we foresaw. We have been firmly against the use of force, and we succeeded in getting this course through. Force was not used, either through UN or through NATO channels, and I hope it will not be used in the future. I hope that the commission that is working now will find the way to govern the city of Sarajevo. I believe that if the events keep evolving in the same vein, time will soon come to review the issue of sanctions against Yugoslavia.

[Kostikov] The newspaper DELOVOY MIR has sent in a note containing two questions. We agreed that only one question should be asked so I suggest you choose one of the questions you put forward. Please go ahead, Mr. Kratkov.

[Kratkov] Boris Nikolayevich, when you were in Petrozavodsk, 13 of the 16 parliamentary factions proposed that you meet with them at your convenience to talk heart-to-heart in order to find some path towards accord. So far you have not given them an answer. What is your answer?

[Yeltsin] If they had asked in the manner that you have asked, then I would have immediately agreed to a meeting. But they made me an ultimatum and as you know I do not accept ultimatums.

[Kostikov] The colleague in the third row. Please go ahead. Just introduce yourself please.

[Correspondent] Radio Zet from Poland. Mr. President, could you roughly tell us the details and the aim of your first official visit to Poland? Can you reply in the affirmative to the proposal by Mr. Walesa to set up an interpresidential committee of experts? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I am agreed on the formation of a committee of experts, of course; it is essential. We have to take stock after Mr. Walesa's visit to Russia. Then, Mr. Walesa invited me to pay an official visit to Poland, and quite some time has passed and I am beginning to feel awkward that I have not yet done this. So, this is a planned visit during which we will take stock, take some things still further, and sign a whole series of agreements between our two countries. I believe that our cooperation is developing quite successfully.

[Kostikov] Our colleague behind the television camera, you have been asking to speak for a long time.

[Osipov] Radio Russia, Osipov. Boris Nikolayevich, in this hall a year ago you said that you know things that nobody else does about the coup in August 1991. The country can see how lethargic the courts are being with the State Committee for the State of Emergency case. Could you share your thoughts on this. Perhaps the courts don't know what you know? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] What the courts do not have [pauses, laughter in hall] is a procuracy, and determination, of course. The details that I know have no impact, are unlikely to have any impact on the court verdict and the judicial process. As you know, the court protested to the General Procuracy, and for this reason the process is becoming lengthy. I and the Security Council's interdepartmental commission, together with the Security Council, decided yesterday on the basis of existing information and evidence to request the Supreme Soviet to express no confidence in the Procurator General.

[Kostikov] Mikhail Gurevich, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS.

[Gurevich] Boris Nikolayevich, a year ago during a meeting with young people you said that you are the only 60-year-old in the government. The Gaydar government was at the beginning the youngest in the world. You will recall that there were also a lot of young people among the defenders of the White House, and now young people in the main support your reforms. But do you not think that the authorities remember the young only at critical times, when their own youthful spirit and also determination somehow desert them. You cannot borrow determination from your opponents.

One can recall how during the search of Poltoranin's office recently, an investigator used the phone to call somewhere and said: We are phoning from Yeltsin's place, then he laughed and corrected himself and said, from Poltoranin's place and we have not got round to Yeltsin yet.

[Yeltsin] I did not quite understand all that.

[Kostikov] Mikhail, that was a very good and useful speech, but please ask a clear question.

[Gurevich] Does the president consider that, somehow, the gains, victories, and points that all of us won two years ago have somehow been squandered, and now we have to redouble our efforts to...[trails off in mid-sentence].

[Yeltsin] I understand. You know, there has been a lot of talk, in the media and from some politicians, economists, sociologists, political analysts, and so forth included, that these have been two years of lost opportunities. I cannot agree with that. Let us look at what has been done during these two years, at what kind of Russia, Soviet Russia, existed in August 1991, and what kind of Russia there is now. Only after two years have we realized that we have to change our parliament, reelect it. We did not realize this then. It did not even enter our thoughts that we would have to elect a new parliament. But people's ways of thinking have changed so much. The market economy—it is now becoming a reality in Russia. From the viewpoint of various coups there have been opportunities lost but we did not want them. Regarding the attitude toward young people, well, we can admit that they did play a major part during August 1991 and have been somewhat overlooked, bearing in mind their role in August 1991, and I do agree with you on that.

[Kostikov] Will you please wait just a little while. We have a lady here, who has been waiting for a very long time. Go ahead, but please try to be clear and precise.

[Correspondent] The Czech Television, we apologize for being late for this news conference. Mr. President, next week you intend to visit Prague for four hours, or some such very short time. Will you please tell us what subjects you intend to discuss with President Havel? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] You know, my plans did not include a trip to the Czech Republic. But Mr. Havel told me he would very much like me to visit Prague for just a few hours in order to meet him and discuss how our cooperation was proceeding, and what was still to be done to make it more dynamic. This is the main topic of our upcoming meeting. There will be no other official events. There may be a short walkabout in Prague just to mix with the people, and that is it.

[Kostikov] Now, to maintain the balance between the two wings, a question from the right side of the hall please.

[Correspondent] So, it is a case of old friends meeting again. Hello there, Boris Nikolayevich. You have a very good memory, so I would like to take to back to 1989. Remember Meridian? Remember how hard it all was for you?

[Yeltsin] I do.

[Correspondent] I am now going to offer you something along the lines of Meridian. Well, you remember it all. It looks as though your team, the whole of your team, is unable to resolve one question that worries all of Russia. Go ahead and resolve it, after all you are the president. Here is what I mean. Why should Vice President Rutskoy abuse his office to conduct a presidential election campaign? Why is he spending our taxpayers' money? If your team cannot resolve this issue, Boris Nikolayevich, you promised to have a meeting with me, and we are ready to help the president resolve this issue. This is an outrage, him travelling around at taxpayers' expense and openly conducting a presidential election campaign. You are the president, so do resolve this issue.

[Yeltsin] So what, do you propose to help physically? [laughter, applause in hall]

[Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, what is it for us? Remember what we decided in 1989? You had 80 mandates, and there were 1,420 people there. Remember how they fled from the hall? I told you then: Look, Boris Nikolayevich, you have won a victory here, your rivals are fleeing from the hall! I know you remember it perfectly well. So we can also resolve this issue here.

[Yeltsin] I think Rutskoy should flee too. [applause]

[Kostikov] I have here a question from VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA. Zhanna Semenovna Avyazova.

[Avyazova] Boris Nikolayevich, at the referendum, the people of Moscow voted for you most convincingly. Tomorrow, they are coming to the White House to express their support for you. Do you think that it is probably not advisable to express support in such a way now, all the more so because there are fears that tomorrow's rallies can grow into serious conflicts, like the ones in May?

[Yeltsin] Yes, I also do not believe that this form is essential, but there are some political figures who accuse us of controlling this situation, so to speak. This is not the case at all. It is the Muscovites who are doing this; we are not involved. It is the mayor's office that is doing this and things should happen in the way they decide is best. I have no intention of interfering.

[Kostikov] Gentlemen, our time is running out. The last question please from our colleague who is standing behind the camera and has been trying to speak for a long time.

[Trushko] Thank you. PRAVDA newspaper, Viktor Trushko. Esteemed President. What is your attitude toward the results of the April referendum, according to which the majority of Russians said they were against early elections for both the post of president and for Russia's people's deputies? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] There was no direct question there at all. [Yeltsin repeats this statement as there is some background noise] I am sorry.

[Kostikov] Yes, I think that the question was posed incorrectly and it would be difficult to answer it...

[Yeltsin, interrupts] Yes, I have no answer to that.

[Kostikov] All right then, Talalayev please. Oh, I am sorry, Terikhov.

[Yeltsin] Yes, he has already spoken several times. [muffled laughter]

[Kostikov] Terikhov, Terikhov. [more laughter]

[Terikhov] Boris Nikolayevich, could you please tell me. Recently, the Supreme Soviet and the parliament chairman have been trying to make out that there is no economic or political crisis in the country, neither is there a power split. They say that there is a crisis of management. As president, could you describe the working part of your day, how you manage the country. What are the components of your day? What do you concentrate on? Who do you talk to? Could you tell me about this side of your life?

[Yeltsin] On Monday, all the major services report to the president taking one hour each, throughout the whole day. There are no meetings or large gatherings. On Tuesday, I meet Chernomyrdin at 1000 hours. We discuss all government questions, all the questions I want to ask the government, that the government wants to ask me, our common Russian affairs. We consult each other on what to do and how to resolve the situation. Also on Tuesday, in the afternoon, I hold consultative meetings with different specialists depending upon the situation at the time. I can tell you that I hold meetings with lawyers or political figures on the elections, the constitution, and I have to say that this is very, very useful. The proposals are extremely constructive and interesting and I think that we should move in the direction proposed by these specialists.

On Wednesday, it is the Security Council. I am describing this in general terms, I am not giving you every tiny detail separately, breaking it down minute by minute. As you know, my timetable is drawn up a month in advance with every hour, every minute, and every day accounted for, and I work according to this timetable. On Wednesday, it is the Security Council or the Security Council Interdepartmental Commission, that happens every Wednesday.

Thursday is government day. On Friday, I work with the presidential services. Saturday is a day for analysis, which means I hold meetings with analysts who have information, which includes some information provided by you. So what I do is study all this information and all this analytical material. Once a month I see the heads of administrations and I discuss various relevant issues with them.

Next, there is, for example, the group of representatives from the soviets, then I see the heads of the republics of the Russian Federation once a month, the Council of the Heads of the Republics. Then there is the CIS. I definitely see them once every month or six weeks.

Apart from that, virtually every leader in the CIS necessarily comes here for consultations. At the moment, Shushkevich, Stanislav Stanislavovich, of Belarus is already lying in wait for me, as it were. Next, as you know, there will be a meeting with Shevardnadze next week, a meeting with Ardzinba, and a meeting with Kravchuk and with the government—with the leadership of the government—of the Ukraine, and so on.

Well, that is the overall picture of how it shapes up. Then, Tuesday and Saturday are sports days. I try to keep them up and play tennis. Yesterday, or rather the day before yesterday was Tuesday. I played tennis in the evening. I played 14 games, in fact. So, as regards anyone doubting my state of health, my advice is to play 14 games of tennis and see what it is like. It is awkward to say this, since, in so doing, one may lose an opponent. [laughter in hall] I mean, as far as the results of the match are concerned.

[Kostikov] Colleagues, gentlemen. Our time is up. Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich...

[Yeltsin] Thank you.

[Kostikov] ...for meeting the journalists. Thanks to all the journalists too.

[Yeltsin] Once again, have a good holiday!

Commission To Coordinate Coup Anniversary Events

LD1808222293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1612 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—In connection with the second anniversary of the August coup attempt, a coordinating commission has been set up to ensure that the festivities outside the Russian House of the Soviets on 19, 20, and 21 August proceed in an organized manner. The commission comprises representatives of deputy factions of the Russian Supreme Soviet, the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the mayor's office, the procuracy, the State Internal Affairs Directorate of the city of Moscow, the Moscow Soviet, the Krasnopresnenskiy rayon soviet, the executive committee of the National Salvation Front, and the organizing committee for the staging of events within the framework of the "Vivat Rossiya" days of celebration, the report of the parliamentary press service says.

No Plan To Use Troops To Disperse Demonstrations

LD1808153293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1159 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug—"All the reports saying that interior troops are allegedly being pulled up toward Moscow in order to break up forthcoming rallies and

demonstrations are unfounded. There has been no redeployment of our units," Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the Russian interior troops, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in an exclusive interview today. The law does not allow to use interior troops to halt unsanctioned but non-violent rallies, meetings, street marches and demonstrations, he said. "At the same time, the law says it is our duty to prevent mass disturbances in populated areas. The troops will not stand idle if people's safety comes under threat. After all, this is what we are here for," Anatoliy Kulikov noted.

Touching on the problem of the disbandment of troops, the commander stressed that the timescale and procedure for the transfer of the functions of guarding corrective labor colonies from the interior troops to the main directorate for the implementation of punishments of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs will be determined in the very near future. "We have been prompted to take this decision not only by world practice but also the acute shortage of conscripts," said Kulikov. "This step will allow us to concentrate efforts on protecting public order and the most important state facilities, and on attracting more forces to carry out tasks in regions with difficult operational circumstances."

Replying to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the situation in the limited area under a state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, the commander noted that, unfortunately, the murders of the head of the Interim administration, the corps commander and guard officer have exacerbated the situation. "We are seeking additional methods of action in the fight against criminal communities, collaborating closely not only with Russian law and order forces concentrated in the region, but also with territorial bodies. In particular, the interior troops have been carrying out all recent operations to reveal and disarm illegal formations in conjunction with the militia's of the two republics," Lt. Gen. Kulikov concluded.

Militia Chief on Plans To Prevent Clashes Between Demonstrators

PM1808152493 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Telephone interview with Yuriy Dmitriyevich Soldatov, section chief at the Moscow City Internal Affairs Administration's Public Order Protection Administration, by Robert Minasov; date not given: "If the Militia Will Protect Us"]

[Text] A heavy burden will most probably fall on the Moscow militia. The capital's government has charged it with the task of preventing a possible clash between participants in the two rallies.

We called Yuriy Soldatov, section chief at the Moscow City Internal Affairs Administration's Public Order Protection Administration, and asked him what measures the militia proposes to take in connection with the situation that has arisen.

[Soldatov] First I must note that NSF [National Salvation Front] leaders Ilya Konstantinov and Mikhail Astafyev have personally confirmed that they have given strict instructions to all participants in the coming event to adhere strictly to the rules of public order.

The NSF must clear the square in front of the White House at 1800 hours on 20 August, immediately after the rally. An hour later, the democrats' marchers will begin to converge there. The militia's task is to cut off access to the square, dispersing the NSF demonstrators along Glubokiy and other side streets in the direction of the Ulitsa 1905 Goda and Barrikadnaya subway stations before the approach of the democrats' marchers. We will divert the traffic as necessary. We have sufficient forces to stop a head-on clash.

[Minasov] Is it not possible that a rotten tomato might be hurled from one column into the opposing one, and that the cry will there be raised: "They are beating our people up!"

[Soldatov] No, it is not possible. The tomato would not get that far... The whole point is that we will strive to ensure that a substantial distance is maintained between them.

I would also like to say this: The Democratic Russia supporters and the NSF supporters are all Muscovites. We love you all equally, and we beg you: Be sensible, do not turn a celebration into ignominious carnage.

Moscow Emergency Militia Force Created for 19-21 Aug

MK1908090593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Moscow—A reserve force of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will be created for possible actions in Moscow on 19, 20, and 21 August, advised Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov, head of the Main Department for Public Order of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs. This reserve force will be subordinated to General Yevgeniy Abramov, acting minister, and will go into action on orders from the acting minister if only one of the column of marchers deviates from the route, or in case of possible provocations. Bringing in Ministry of Internal Affairs forces from other regions of Russia is totally out of the question, Ogorodnikov stressed. Neither is there any information on provocations that might take place during demonstrations and meetings.

Officers Union Warns Officers Not To Obey 'Criminal' Orders

PM1808175493 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

["Own information" report: "Do Not Execute Criminal Orders"]

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary of the August events, the "Officers' Union" has appealed to officers of the Armed Forces, the Security Ministry, and the Internal Affairs Ministry. It warns comrades that the tormented Motherland is again on the brink of very serious upheavals: another coup d'etat. The "Union" calls on the officers to remember that the existing Constitution instructs them not to fulfill criminal orders, to put a resolute stop to them, whoever may have issued them, and immediately to inform the public of this.

Parties Appeal For 'Restraint,' 'Prudence'

PM1808173493 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report on appeal by the Russian National Union, "Working Moscow," the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Rebirth Party, and the National Salvation Front (Moscow Oblast and Moscow): "Emergency"]

[Text] The Russian National Union, "Working Moscow," the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Rebirth Party, and the NSF [National Salvation Front] (Moscow Oblast and Moscow) have adopted an appeal to the NSF political council, Russia's social and political organizations, and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. It says, in part:

The present ruling regime, losing all vestiges of support even among the most gullible section of the population, is trying with all its might to shift the blame for its own bankruptcy onto the opposition forces. The regime is using all the means available to the executive in its attempt to provoke civil war.

On 12 August 1993, at the House of the Russian Press, the president of Russia once again—as on 20 March 1993—declared his intention to deal with the opposition, which is preventing his team from pursuing a course toward economic ruin and the breakup of the Russian state.

We call on all social and political organizations and citizens of the Russian Federation to declare, on their own account, a STATE OF SOCIAL EMERGENCY. And to be prepared, while showing restraint, to rebuff the bankrupt regime, which is capable of anything for the sake of holding onto power and evading responsibility for what it has done... It is our common desire to prevent a coup d'etat. The people can and should remove the existing powers by the same means by which they put that power into the hands of those who are ruining them—by means of elections. No one should help to turn a front of political struggle into a front of civil struggle.

We call on the supporters and leaders of national patriotic and workers' movements, on 20 August 1993, to leave outside the White House, alone with themselves and before the eyes of the people, those who are impatient to visit the scene of the crime committed in 1991.

We call on the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet leadership to show the greatest possible prudence and adopt all necessary measures to protect the Supreme Soviet building on 20 August 1993 against possible provocations by any extremist forces.

NSF Calls For Defense of Parliament

PM1808174293 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

["National Salvation Front Appeal"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] The National Salvation Front [NSF] is holding a series of commemorative events 20-21 August, to mark those days in August 1991 that were tragic for our Motherland. The aim of the demonstrations is to express the Russian people's attitude toward the destruction of the Union state as a result of the so-called "August putsch" and the Belovezhskaya deal, and also to express support for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

On 20 August from 1630 to 1800 there will be a commemorative rally outside the Russian Federation House of Soviets on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment (approach from Barrikadnaya subway station).

On the night of 20-21 August there will be a picket of the Russian Federation House of Soviets.

On 21 August from 1000 to 1100 there will be a rally outside the Russian Federation House of Soviets, followed by a mourning procession to Lubyanka Square, where there will be an all-Moscow rally from 1400 to 1600.

During these days, when threats against the Supreme Soviet are once again emanating from the president and his entourage, the NSF calls on all those who still have civic courage and who value the people's power to come to the House of Soviets and defend Russia's highest organ of legislative power.

Rayon Chief Rejects City Hall Plans for Moscow Rallies

PM1808150893 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Krasnov, chairman of Moscow's Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon Soviet, by Vyacheslav Shchepotkin; place and date not given: "Aleksandr Krasnov: The Rayon Soviet Is Acting According to the Law, City Hall Is Not"]

[Text] Some say that the demonstrators should be separated by assigning them different days, others—different times. But Aleksandr Krasnov, chairman of Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon Soviet, has his own view on this point: No demonstration should be allowed near the House of Soviets at all. How does he justify this?

[Krasnov] In full accordance with the law that was adopted on the status of Moscow (Article 2), all demonstrations and rallies are prohibited on territories directly adjacent to the highest organs of power: the Supreme Soviet, the presidential and government seats, the Constitutional Court. Therefore Moscow City Hall, in adopting the decision on holding the rallies, exceeded its powers. In this connection I, as chairman of the rayon soviet, am suspending the fulfillment of the executive organ's decision on the rayon's territory pending a legal assessment of the matter by the Moscow prosecutor. I have already sent the appropriate document to the city prosecutor. But Mr. Ponomarev has not yet given his assessment of the City Hall decision.

[Shchepotkin] But all the indications are that the rival demonstrations will take place anyway. Your opinion will not be heeded. What are you going to do?

[Krasnov] Obviously I am not going to fling myself upon the columns of demonstrators. But if there is bloodshed like on May Day, it will be obvious who is to blame: Moscow City Hall, which proposed a useless system for separating the demonstrators and issued unlawful permission. I hope, of course, that this will not happen: Your newspaper and others have focused heightened attention on the forthcoming events; the movements' leaders assure us that they will not permit provocations, but it would be better to observe the law.

[Shchepotkin] What schedule for holding the demonstrations would you propose?

[Krasnov] In full accordance with the law, the National Salvation Front is entitled to gather on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment between the "Trekhgorka" [cotton plant] and the White House. And their opponents are entitled to proceed along Kalininskiy Prospekt, as they propose: to hold a rally outside City Hall, return along the Prospekt, and hold a ceremony near the spot where the boys were killed. That is a proper legal solution that infringes nobody's rights.

Kalmykov Details Corruption by Leading Officials

LD1808170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1544 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 18 ITAR-TASS—A special commission set up to combat crime and corruption in Russia today decided to ask the Constitutional Court to consider the case of Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy who is party to an account in a Swiss bank. "Major government resources from some firms of the Russian Federation were remitted to that account," Russian Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov told a news conference here today.

Aleksey Ilyushenko, who heads the president's control service, said the vice-president's part in the currency account in Switzerland was "beyond doubt". The commission has at its disposal a document certified by a notary in Canada which shows that the account was signed by Rutskoy and another man whose name will remain undisclosed for time being in the interests of the investigation.

Asked about Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy's report to the parliament last April about cases of corruption in the Russian Western Army, Ilyushenko said that none of the instances mentioned by the vice-president was confirmed by a group of the president's control service employees who had travelled to Germany to check the reported offences. He said most of Rutskoy's other accusations, including against Russia's First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, were also unconfirmed.

The commission which met today also decided to call on the parliament to fire Russia's Chief Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov. According to a commission resolution Stepankov and his office were to blame for the chaos and boundless lawlessness in the country. Stepankov himself was compromised by his contacts with notorious Dmitriy Yakubovskiy.

Lawyer Andrey Makarov, who heads the commission administration, that he had heard a tape recording of Stepankov's telephone conversation in which Stepankov allegedly "discussed "plans" for killing Makarov. [sentence, quotation marks as received] Makarov said specialists in audio recording identified the voice on tape as that of Stepankov's and ruled out the possibility of a fake.

The commission said Russia's chief prosecutor was not to be trusted and decided to hand all the collected documents to the chief prosecutor of Moscow.

Justice Minister Kalmykov said major offences against legislation had been uncovered while inspecting the activity of the top echelons of power, particularly by the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry for the Economy which violated the law on quoting and licencing, disrupted the fulfillment of the intergovernmental agreements on oil supplies to Bulgaria and India, and had the oil sold to West European buyers, with the money thus generated hoarded there.

According to Makarov, the commission found access to a system based on the commercial firm Seabeko and its ramifications, which specialised in exporting Communist Party resources abroad and then began taking over control over foreign trade sectors. Tens of millions of dollars have been taken out of the country through their channels. The firm was patronized by medium-level leaders from bodies of legislative and executive power. This led to the sacking of Deputy Economy Minister Yuriy Olkhovnikov.

Ilyusheko said the foreign trade associations Mettsvetexport, Agrokhim and Seabek-Bank were under inspection on Wednesday.

The resignations of Russia's Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and First Deputy Interior Minister Andrey Dunayev were also brought about by the commission

which submitted to the president documents showing they had been involved in unlawful activities.

Asked about the scale of corruption in the country, Andrey Makarov replied that a sort of "economic empire" had taken shape in Russia comprising an entire range of firms and joint enterprises under the aegis of the Vozrozhdeniye foundation. The parliament was rebuked for barring access to the documents of this foundation.

"The most frightening thing is that all the facts we culled were lying on the surface, one needed only to come up and pick them up", Ilyushenko said. He added that the only guarantor capable of restoring order to the country was the president of the Russian Federation. The president was already making decisions on the basis of the documents presented.

PRAVDA Views Yeltsin Dispute With Khasbulatov

PM1908104193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Ilin article: "'If You're Not Allowed To But You Really Want To...' The Law Is Outlawed in the Squabbles Between Branches of Power"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During the past rather turbulent week our Russian president, whose closest comrades-in-arms had been pestering him about his two-three-week silence during his vacation, read out two very threatening policy speeches (although he also digressed slightly in a dialogue with the audience). The head of parliament responded in his usual professorial manner, but also very unambiguously—the threats against the Supreme Soviet would not work. Rapier thrusts were exchanged by the press secretaries, journalists with an ax to grind churned out the malice, and respectable experts and commentators said their clever piece.

But, it seems, few people asked themselves the psychological question—why is this top-level squabble so reminiscent of an ordinary kitchen quarrel with salt and pepper being thrown into your neighbor's saucepan and with other aspects of the ungovernable morals of Ilf and Petrov's "Crow Suburb"? Is it by chance that the president, who has on many occasions proclaimed himself to be the guarantor of constitutionality, should be frenziedly wiping his feet on the current Constitution? And parliament, issuing yet another law after exhausting and fractious debates, is virtually on the point of kicking itself—they'd missed this, failed to foresee that, and many other things should have been remedied or clarified.

I will not pass judgment on whose failure or, conversely, whose sharp punch to the "solar plexus" of emergent legality is more dangerous for society. What is more worrying is that both those who adopt the laws and he who signs them are compromising both themselves and the state with their disregard for the state functions they carry out. This all started at the time when the current president was not yet president and parliament submissively followed the signals of its then adored leader. And there was a total retreat from the laws—first Union laws and then republic laws—resulting in a war of laws which could not end other than in legal chaos.

When I now hear the reinvigorated president threatening to decisively lop off the legislative branch which he finds so irksome, I cannot help recalling how the majority in the then Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, in an unthinking frenzy worthy of a rally, supported B.N. Yeltsin's declaration of political war on the legally elected president of the USSR in February 1991. How the Russian parliament rapidly and almost unanimously approved the wild Belovezhskaya Forest "carve-up" of the Union state, without being embarrassed about transgressing the law or betraying tradition, the entire history of the Land of the Soviets, and the lives of hundreds of millions of people. It is hard for me to recognize this, because today it is the Russian Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies which are stonewalling and have become the last barrier in the way of despotism and dictatorship. [passage omitted]

In his current confrontation with parliament the former candidate member of the Politburo—and this is proved by his latest moves—has by no means been wounded by the insufficiently democratic nature of the people's deputies or their speaker. Previously, when they were paving the way for him to achieve his personal goals, he was completely happy with the makeup of the Russian Supreme Soviet and the Congress, and he repeatedly emphasized their democratic superiority over Union organs. Yeltsin is currently embarrassed by the increased autonomy—or, put another way, the democratic nature—of the parliament and its ability to counter the authoritarian impulses of the head of the executive and his innumerable "opuses."

For effect, the president left the party at the 28th CPSU Congress—just as easily as he walked out of the Kremlin Palace of Congresses' auditorium. But he cannot easily slough off his past like an old skin. And the mentality of the all-powerful boss fostered over decades of party rule cannot be changed overnight. It is no wonder that Yeltsin the democrat differs little from Yeltsin the party man. Perhaps only in that he was then "one of...", albeit few, but now he stands over all. And his old habit of ruling without reference to the law is now no longer restricted by anyone or anything, and manifests itself in attacks on anyone who even mentions the law or who tries to oppose presidential one-man rule.

R. Khasbulatov was a close ally while he was helping in the struggle against the Union president and applying all his exceptional abilities to push through parliament decisions which suited his "senior." He became awkward as soon as he reminded the president of dignity—his own and parliament's—and of respect for the law. V. Zorkin, like V. Stepankov, Yu. Skokov, and V. Barannikov, also lost the president's trust by permitting himself

to adopt an independent stance based once again on respect for the law. Everyone has heard or can think of other names too.

The other day, finally losing faith in parliamentary hearings, Boris Nikolayevich proposed setting up a new organ of power in Russia—the Federation Council. There is hardly any point in recalling that under the Constitution he is not entitled to set up such power structures, much less when the aim is to place them over the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies. But, as people joked until recently, if you're not allowed to, but you really want to, then you can.

He very much wants to hold new parliamentary elections, and passionately wants to have a new constitution "in his own image." And he wants everyone now and for all eternity to toe the line and not even dare to think about contradicting him.

Drawing up an edict and signing it is a pretty simple business, it seems. And any organ can be set up to order. Who, however, can guarantee that even this new organ will not rebel one day and turn on the president in some way? Then that organ will have to be disbanded and something new thought up once again. So, you see, everything will somehow be settled naturally—as old people used to say, we all walk under God...

But couldn't action be taken according to the law just once? To set a good example. Then others, looking to their "elder," would do likewise. Rather like the rules of the road, laws save people's lives if they follow them. Maybe then we would finally get out of the lousy "Crow Suburb" and start living normally, without disruption and artillery bombardments.

Shumeyko Opines on Elections, Government, Rutskoy

LD1808135093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Report by G. Fadeyeva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At one of his regular meetings with journalists held this morning, first deputy prime minister Vladimir Shumeyko touched upon a wide range of issues. The most interesting one was the plan for new elections for the Supreme Soviet put forward by Shumeyko, who said that the present Supreme Soviet did not exist for him.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] On the basis of the constitution, on the basis of people's power, the President has a legitimate right to raise the question of fresh elections. All the more so because any further political confrontation, any further infighting would affect the security of the state. [end recording]

Shumeyko believes that the Federation Council, made up of 176 leaders of territorial units, should be transformed into a body of power, an upper chamber of parliament. The lower chamber, the Duma, should be elected by popular vote. So much then for the new representative power. As for the question of replacing the present government, the Shumeyko believes that at this stage such a measure would be pointless. Any new team would have to do the same balancing act on the verge of hyperinflation. The way out lies through sharply increasing production of consumer goods, wholeheartedly supporting small businesses, and reverting to horizontal economic ties in the framework of the CIS.

Moreover, journalists were keen to know whether Shumeyko was going to sue the vice-president for the latter's insults connected with the case of [Dmitriy] Yakubovskiy. It was revealed that linguistic analysis was now under way to establish whether what Rutskoy said could be qualified as an insult.

Yeltsin Decree on Implementing Treaty Measures in Yakutia

LD1808193293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation reports today that Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree "On top priority measures for the implementation of the federative treaty in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)."

The document assigns the government to work out a program for social and economic development of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The program will formulate goal-oriented priority tasks ensuring the mobilization of financial, credit, material and other resources with the aim of structural reorganization of the Yakutian economy.

The program will envisage the creation of a fund for its implementation in the form of a closed joint-stock company with the participation of Russian and foreign investors. The Russian government will take part in forming the authorized capital of this fund. The tasks of the fund include the execution of innovation, insurance and holding functions.

In accordance with the Russian president's decree, it is envisaged that beginning from the next year, financial means will be earmarked from the state budget for building in Yakutia enterprises processing agricultural produce, as well as financial resources will be allocated for the construction of residential houses for the resettlement of veterans of the Russian north from the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) to central districts of Russia.

It will also be stipulated to use export and import duties paid by Yakutian enterprises, to finance a share of the Russian federation in the implementation of concrete projects included in the program for the social and economic development of Yakutia.

Measures will also be taken to work out a mechanism for the return within a year of currency resources frozen on

the accounts of the Vnesheconombank to Yakutian enterprises and organizations which will take part in the realization of the program. These enterprises will be given credits for replenishing their own circulating assets.

The measures envisaged in the decree are aimed at implementing the federative treaty and creating a mechanism for resolving social and economic problems during the transition to the market-oriented economy in the Russian north, the press service of the president of the Russian Federation reported on Wednesday.

Shaposhnikov Explains Resignation Request

MK1808132793 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No.34, 22 Aug 93 (signed to press 17 Aug 93) p A10

[Interview with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, secretary of the Russian Security Council, by Tatyana Yakhlakova, under the "Army" rubric; place and date not given: "Marshal Shaposhnikov Is Resigning, But Is Not Actually Understood"]

[Text] Marshal Shaposhnikov's intention to resign from the post of Security Council secretary is probably not an event that would after some time be deemed historic. Still, the departure of the first (and probably last) commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces from the political scene is a landmark event. It signals an end to one of post-August Russia's most important stories—a story of the CIS countries' military integration according to a scenario drawn up by the authors of the Belovezhskaya Forest agreement. Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov spoke with Tatyana Yakhlakova, a MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI analyst.

[Yakhlakova] Two months is too short a time to become disenchanted with one's new job. Is it true that you were not satisfied with the Security Council secretary's powers?

[Shaposhnikov] The question is not whether Shaposhnikov personally had too many or too few powers. What matters is the approach in principle. I have argued that a Security Council secretary should not be only a technical staffer. He should be an organizing force capable of coordinating the activities of ministries and agencies, naturally as far as matters of national and state security are concerned; and there should be control over implementation of decisions made by the Security Council. The Security Council could become an institution that would bring together the interests of all the branches of power in one area. This area comprises matters of state security where the objectives of both the authorities and the opposition do not differ.

[Yakhlakova] They say that you have disagreed with the four "major" ministers—Grachev, Kozyrev, Yerin, and the now-resigned Barannikov.

[Shaposhnikov] I would rather not answer that question.

[Yakhlakova] Have you discussed your resignation with the president?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, I have. He summoned me on the very day that I submitted my resignation—29 July.

[Yakhlakova] And how did the conversation end?

[Shaposhnikov] How could it end if I had already made a definitive decision? Boris Nikolayevich asked me to continue to work for a period that I am legally obligated to complete.

[Yakhlakova] For two months?

[Shaposhnikov] I think it was two weeks. But this is not important: I will work as long as needed until an edict is signed. But I do not intend to stay on.

[Yakhlakova] In addition to the reasons you have already mentioned in IZVESTIYA, are there not any motives behind your decision that prompted Shevardnadze's resignation some time ago?

[Shaposhnikov] No. There were enough reasons for this step, both personal and service-related ones. But I do not think it possible to comment on them in public. I would like to emphasize: The initiative to resign comes from me and from no one else. So there is no need to waste time drawing up theories.

[Yakhlakova] Theories emerge because of a lack of information. It is somewhat strange, for instance, that the nuclear button has been taken from you. Why didn't they discuss this matter at the Council of Heads of State?

[Shaposhnikov] There is nothing unlawful in this. You will not find a written decision reserving the nuclear button for me. When I was appointed USSR defense minister, it was handed over to me automatically. When the Union ceased to exist, I received it, so to speak, as an inheritance. But in December of 1991, the heads of state who gathered in Almaty decided—and this decision was officially recorded—that the president of Russia as the legal successor of the USSR should also have the nuclear button; and since at that time I was commander in chief of only the Armed Forces and not the Joint Armed Forces (there is a significant difference here)—I kept it. This was formalized by an edict of the Russian president.

But, for that matter, it should be with the defense minister.

[Yakhlakova] Are the heads of state concerned that the nuclear button is controlled by the Russian defense minister and not by the commander in chief?

[Shaposhnikov] It was the Russian president who was entrusted with the chief control functions regarding the nuclear button. It is up to him to whom he should give some of the control functions. In any case, Russia has been exercising operational control over all nuclear weapons in the CIS. But no defense minister, even if he had 100 buttons, can use the nuclear weapons without

the Russian president's authorization and without consultations via special conference communications equipment with the president of the states in whose territories they are stationed—that is, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

[Yakhlakova] It is well known that you were appointed commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces [JAF] by the Council of Heads of State. Have they been consulted on your re-appointment?

[Shaposhnikov] There was no special meeting of the Council of Heads of State. When Boris Nikolayevich invited me for a conversation on the new appointment at the beginning of June, however, I asked him to speak with other presidents on the subject. He fulfilled this request. On that very evening, Nazarbayev called me and said that he had no objections. He even remarked: If I were in your place, I would have agreed.

Later, since there were no more calls from the heads of state, I tried to find out their views on my own. I called Shushkevich, Kravchuk, Ter-Petrosyan... They all supported the decision. I also tried to get in touch with Karimov, but could not. Anyway, five of those presidents who appointed me gave their consent. So it was not some kind of secret decision.

[Yakhlakova] Why has no one yet been appointed to fill your post of JAF commander in chief?

[Shaposhnikov] There is the problem of the JAF's future. Currently, there is no agreement on the subject—whether we should have a Main Command, or is it enough to set up just a coordinating body? Or is it worthwhile to take a completely different path: to delegate the functions of coordinator to a CIS state, say, to Russia, which has 80 percent of the entire military potential on its territory? The latest meeting of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers in mid-June, which was, alas, attended only by deputy ministers, decided to work on all the options and to submit proposals to the presidents in six months or so, that is, by year's end.

It is well known that I favor a closer military integration of the Commonwealth states than we have at present. This has given cause to some to suspect me of desiring to recreate the USSR and a single armed forces, while others see in my actions a line that is at odds with Russia's interests.

As a matter of fact, I have always raised one question: let us decide what we need. Either a Commonwealth with military integration, or the current amorphous CIS with broken economic and military links. As long as there are no requisite political decisions on this subject, my work is meaningless. Frankly speaking, I have felt utter emptiness around me for the past six months; or rather, a granite wall on the part of ministries and agencies that I tried to run against.

[Yakhlakova] And on the part of the presidents?

[Shaposhnikov] I have never felt anything like this on the part of the presidents. But I can cite the following incident: Commonwealth defense ministers have effectively stopped attending the Council's meetings. I mean precisely the top persons. You know, I was getting an impression that no one needed this except Shaposhnikov.

[Yakhlakova] Does it turn out then that the idea of the CIS has failed?—at least as it was initially conceived two years ago?

[Shaposhnikov] I would not say that it has failed. In words, everyone agrees that integration is advisable. But everyone understands it differently. The JAF cannot be set up without Russian involvement. Russia says, however: currently it is not advisable. Russia has an army, whereas other states do not. This means that Russia will have to cover all the costs for the maintenance of the JAF. But they can reach agreement after all. To approve a budget with shared contributions. To decide what armies the CIS states will need until the year 2000, and to calculate on this basis the contributions to be paid to the budget, to set up a system of state production orders, and so forth. Back in April, I sent a large analytical paper with tables, charts, and graphs to the presidents showing where we have come from, what have we reached, and what is to be done next in order not to finally destroy what had been created for decades, if not centuries. Everything went into the void once again.

[Yakhlakova] Does the Russian president have an equally chilly attitude to the JAF?

[Shaposhnikov] It is hard to give an unambiguous answer. The president has never argued against setting up agencies for military integration and coordination in his conversations with me or in public. Moreover, he has repeatedly told me that he is concerned that some states have not joined the system of collective security.

[Yakhlakova] Do you feel disenchanted?

[Shaposhnikov] I am aware that I could have been a kind of a compromise figure—as a man entirely detached from politics and suiting both sides. Apparently, now is the time for different characters.

Former KGB Chief on Security, Foreign Spies

MK1908054193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with Leonid Shebarshin, former chief of the Soviet intelligence service, by Rodion Morozov, under the "Revelations" rubric; place and date not given: "Leonid Shebarshin: 'I Know That Foreign Intelligence Services Are Stepping Up Their Activities Against Russia.' Former Chief of the Country's Intelligence Service Believes the Revival of the Russian People's Self-Conscience Will Save the Country"]

[Excerpts] [Morozov] Since you resigned in the fall of 1991, a lot of things have changed in the USSR KGB. First, it has ceased to be a Union service and turned into a Russian one. Second, the committee was converted into a ministry. Third, it has been seriously restructured: border troops, government communications, the personal protection administration, and foreign intelligence have been decoupled from it; the notorious 5th administration, which dealt with ideology, is no longer there. Has the state benefitted from these changes?

[Shebarshin] I think not. Significant damage has been done to the organization's effectiveness. It is not a coincidence that the border guards have already been returned to us. The fact that ciphering and deciphering services have been withdrawn from the committee has undoubtedly affected the operational capabilities of both these services and the agency itself. Saying that now a threat from the outside no longer exists, or that no one threatens us now or in the future would be, in my view, either a dangerous misconception or political charlatanism. I know that foreign intelligence services have not ceased their operations against Russia. Moreover, they are stepping them up. Russia maintains a sufficient potential to resurrect itself as a great power. Our current international partners apparently have little interest in seeing this happen. To all appearances, they are interested in the opposite; and the intelligence service allows them to monitor the situation in Russia to adjust their approaches. Anyway, back six months ago, the chiefs of the American secret services made no bones that Russia remained one of the main targets of their intelligence operations. I do not want to make unsubstantiated statements. After I resigned, since the beginning of 1992, the American intelligence service has begun setting up a bridgehead for operations against Russia in the Baltics—the Baltic authorities easily agreed to provide the Americans with the requisite facilities. As of the beginning of last year, there were as many as around 50 CIA resident agents in Vilnius. The main objective of these secret agents is not so much work in the Baltics, but rather on Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

It is not only the current goings-on that matter. We have to think about the future as well. We cannot allow foreigners, whether their intentions are good or bad, to have their way in Russian territory with impunity, to interfere in our internal affairs, to set up their own lobby, and to recruit their agents in this country. Countering this is the objective of the state security services; and the fact that these services are presently dispersed among separate agencies significantly impedes this objective.

But the process is not over yet. Sooner or later a situation will come about when these scattered "little drops of mercury" will merge into one large "drop." This may occur if instead of the current anarchy, we have a real democracy, and matters of professionalism and efficiency will come to the fore. It may also happen if the anarchy is replaced by a hard-line dictatorship, which cannot be ruled out, either.

[Morozov] The chief argument in favor of splitting the committee was the conviction that so great a power should not be concentrated in the hands of one agency. You are saying, however, that this concentration may come about again, but this time more spontaneously, in an improvised fashion...

[Shebarshin] In fact, everything depends on the situation in the state. Let us imagine that there is a dictatorship. No matter whether the punitive and law-enforcement agencies are divided or whether they act within one system, they will operate efficiently as they have a common purpose. The same is true regarding a democratic society. All these agencies will operate in a democratic spirit that is characteristic of this society. So, it matters not whether the state security services are scattered among various agencies or whether they are part of a single organization. What does matter is what objectives they set their sights on. In this regard, my opinion remains unchanged: this objective ought to continue to be the protection against, detection of, and prevention of various threats to Russia's state interests.

[Morozov] For the majority of our citizens the abbreviation "KGB" stands in the first instance for the persecution of dissidents, the struggle against ideological foes...

[Shebarshin] You know, contrary to the widely-held view that the committee was engaged exclusively in the persecution of the old authorities' political opponents, the chief objective of the KGB had always been to counter outside threats that materialized in the form of foreign secret services' operations. Recently, I did some calculations, and it turned out that the functions of passive defense from foreign secret services—the protection of government communications, ciphering, the construction of specialized buildings for the event of war, the protection of borders—were performed by around 92-93 percent of the KGB's personnel. The KGB's intelligence service accounted for around 2 percent of the staff, and approximately between 5 and 7 percent of the staffers dealt with counter-espionage operations. It turns out that only the 5th administration alone was involved in the struggle against dissent, but besides it supervised the fight against terrorism and nationalism. [passage omitted]

Generally speaking, why was it that the KGB became a target of attacks that originated with the West and only later were taken up here? I believe it was precisely because it was most efficient in performing its main function—the protection from outside threats; and the blow that was dealt at its viability was at the same time a blow against our country's security. It would be naive to think that they in the West are allegedly concerned about the turmoil in Russia. What this has elicited in the West is satisfaction, and not concern. For them, everything that is going on here is yet more proof that Russia will never again be an economic or political rival to them. [passage omitted]

[Morozov] You do not speak of anyone personally, you do not mention any names, but there is a specific list of politicians who are currently vying for power. Can you mention at least one of them with whom you sympathize?

[Shebarshin] Skokov. Yuriy Vladimirovich Skokov. This is a man in whom I sense a moral strength, stamina. It seems to me that he is a man of principles, who is not corrupt or unscrupulous. I strongly hope that I am not wrong on this count. [passage omitted]

Activities of Executive Branch Recorded 17 Aug

PM1808131593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] **Meetings, Trips, Sessions**

A major government assault has been launched in the Far East. It is led by government head Viktor Chernomyrdin. First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets and Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha are also there. The purpose of the visit is to study the acute socioeconomic situation in the region in situ.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko had a meeting with the leaderships of the Russian and Moscow Journalists' Unions, and also of the Moscow press department, at which questions connected with journalists' activity in current conditions were discussed. There was an examination of proposals on the development of media funding, share flotation, and privatization, and problems of improving the organization of the newspaper retail trade. Vladimir Shumeyko then planned to visit the procured products wholesale market for the population of Moscow, and also to visit the Indian Embassy.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov held a pricing conference at the Finance Ministry.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays held a conference on privatization problems in 1993.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov met with the Federal Employment Service leadership.

The remaining members of the government decided to take advantage of the final days of summer and go on leave. After going to Lipetsk, Voronezh, Rostov-na-Donu, Krasnodar, and Novorossiysk last weekend, First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov went on leave. Vice Premiers Aleksandr Shokhin and Sergey Shakhray are also on leave.

Anatomy of a Visit

Africa always played a big part in trade and economic links with the former USSR. A large number of facilities was constructed there with our assistance and a great deal of machinery and equipment, military included, was supplied to the continent.

What does the future hold for them? How are our many foreign partners going to settle their debts that arise from Russian deliveries? How are trade and economic relations with African countries going to develop in the future? A delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Finance Ministry, Foreign Economic Bank, and other departments, headed by Sergey Glazyev, minister of foreign economic relations, which intends to visit the African continent at the end of the week, proposes to answer these and other questions. The delegation will include representatives of Russian business circles, who are showing an increasing interest in cooperation with African countries. The visit will cover five countries: Tunisia, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, and Egypt. The plan is to sign agreements on trade, economic, and technical cooperation with Tunisia and South Africa. The main topic of discussion with the other states will be the prospects for bilateral relations, including the problem of their debts to Russia.

Conferences

A conference of representatives of the president in Russian Federation republics, krays, oblasts, and okrugs opened in Irkutsk today. It focuses on the results of the recent certification of this rank of state worker and on an analysis of their relationship with the organs of authority and public organizations in the regions.

As is known, the Congress of People's Deputies has tried time and again to abolish the institution of the head of state's representation in the provinces. Time and again the president has used edicts to consolidate and broaden its status. A similar conference was held one year ago in Suzdal.

Pronouncements

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov met with representatives of local organs of authority in Rostov Oblast. Concern was expressed over the continuing production decline and there were calls for cheap credits. The first vice premier advised them to display greater initiative in seeking investors and to set up joint ventures and transnational companies with the CIS countries. "Credits will go to those who have a clear-cut plan for reforming the economy," Oleg Lobov stressed. The government is fully resolved to switch from macro- to microeconomics." The first vice premier also advised enterprises to enter the foreign arms market themselves, without going through the Oboroneksport Association, and promised them total support in this.

Social Protection

The Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government has issued a decree ruling that badly off citizens will get a grant for bread as of 16 August 1993 out of Russian Federation republic budget funds. Within a week the categories of people to be classed as badly off

citizens will be defined, as well as the size of the bread grant for the period from 16 August through 1 October 1993 and for the fourth quarter of this year, and the procedure for paying the grant.

Moscow

The Moscow Government will increase as of 1 September subsidies from the city budget for strata of Muscovites without social protection. The increase will be 80 percent on average. An extra payment of 2,025 rubles [R] per month will go to parents of preschool children who attend childrens' establishments, to single and nonworking mothers, and mothers with large families. Very needy students will have their stipends increased by R2,709 and scholarships will be increased by R7,740.

St. Petersburg

An international symposium "The city of the 21st century: ecology, medicine, economy" opened yesterday at the St. Petersburg Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The symposium was addressed by city mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. In his view, the city's ecological problems must now be viewed in city-oblast terms. St. Petersburg city hall is expecting the symposium to come up with specific decisions that can be put into practice.

Rostov-na-Donu

Cases of a dangerous disease, tularemia (moreover, in one of its most serious forms—ulceroglandular), have been recorded in Rostov Oblast, on the territory of the two settlements of Sinyavskoye and Nedvigovka, in the lower reaches of the Don. Some 94 people have been hospitalized. The infection is transmitted by domestic and wild animals, mosquitoes, and blood-sucking flies. Rostov Oblast administration chief Vladimir Chub adopted a decree on preventive measures in the region. Another decree relates to the problems of the city of Aksay, where 150 people have been hospitalized as a result of an outbreak of acute gastrointestinal disease. Some 120 kilometers of pipes in the city's water supply network are totally unfit for use. V. Rezanov, head of the local rayon administration, warned that they are "not functioning properly."

18 Aug

PM1908090793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Trips, Sessions**

A government delegation is continuing its tour of the Far East. Government Head Viktor Chernomyrdin, First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, and Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha as well as ministers and their deputies are meeting with administration heads, workers, and seamen and trying to promptly resolve the region's grave problems.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko held a meeting with Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays. Later he went to speak with Mr. Sobetski [name as transliterated], president of the International Hockey Organization.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays in turn planned to meet with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation president's administration, after his meeting with Vladimir Shumeyko.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov took part in a meeting of the CIS and Baltic trade ministers at Russian Federation Committee for Trade. He then held a session of the Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic and Scientific Cooperation with the Slovak Republic. The day's schedule also included a session of the working group for the transportation of food (commodities) to areas of the Far North and participation in a ceremonial session to mark the fifth anniversary of the creation of the All-Russia Society of Invalids. [passage omitted]

Appointments

Anatoliy Kozyrev has been appointed Russian Federation deputy minister of fuel and energy.

Aleksey Moskvichev has been appointed Russian Federation first deputy minister of health.

Vladimir Kuzmin has been appointed Russian Federation deputy justice minister. [passage omitted]

Moscow

A routine Moscow Government session held yesterday examined two questions: implementation of the government program in 1993; and prospects for the comprehensive development of the Serebryanyy Bor area.

The city is still preparing for its holiday, due to take place 4 and 5 September.

Irkutsk

A Privatization Day was held yesterday in Irkutsk Oblast. It was organized by and involved the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo], local joint-stock companies, entrepreneurs, and the population of the region.

Around 300 enterprises in the western Transbaykal have already been privatized. The event's program included seminars entitled "How to Become the Owner of an Enterprise," "Shares: Questions and Answers," and "How To Attract Investment," and meetings between leaders of joint-stock companies and city and rayon

administration heads and Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Goskomimushchestvo.

Samara

Boris Tregubov, deputy head of Samara Oblast administration, has demanded an extraordinary session of the oblast soviet to tackle grain harvest questions. The disquiet felt by the head of the oblast agricultural directorate is quite understandable: The uncommonly large grain harvest could be left in the fields owing to a lack of money to pay the grain producers.

Novosibirsk

A prestrike situation has developed at electronics industry enterprises in Novosibirsk Oblast. The major "Vostok" Research Institute has been shut down. Only two workshops apiece are working at the electronics and semiconductor plants. Many personnel from other enterprises have been forced to take administrative leave.

Economic Issues

Council of Ministers Presidium Appeals to Trade Unions

LD1908092393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2248 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation has appealed to trade union organizations and working collectives of Russia to consolidate all public forces. This appeal has been prompted by the concern of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers about the "recently increased militancy of the trade unions" included in the tripartite commission for regulating labor relations, set up by the Russian president's decree as a body of social partnership.

The appeal states that the demands of individual leaders of industry trade unions are becoming more and more politicized, while mass collective action like work stoppages or even civil disobedience are presented as an alternative to an established process of social dialogue. The Federation of Russia's independent Trade Unions has worked out a "Plan of Collective Action," which proposes setting up strike committees and broadening the strike movement. When the country has to mobilize labor and material resources, says the statement, and ensure that industry and transportation are functioning without stoppages to provide a successful harvest and preserve it, such actions cannot be aimed at providing socio-economic stability. They can only be explained as serving the political interests of individual trade union leaders.

The Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation is appealing to all employees who some trade union leaders claim to represent, and to all workers to resist being pulled into political games.

It is much easier and quicker to destroy the developing process of social accord than to reconstruct it later, says the statement.

Government To Tighten Currency, Export Regulation

MK1908083193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

[Konstantin Smirnov report: "Foreign Economic Relations Ministry Tightens Currency, Export Regulation"]

[Text] Yesterday's colleguim meeting at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry [FERM] did not limit itself to the sensational decision to drastically cut the number of specialized exporters of oil, oil products, and nonferrous metals. It also assessed the results of the work of the FERM's central staff and local branches in the first six months of 1993. Despite criticism leveled at the ministry's foreign economic associations, the participants in the meeting concluded that at present the FERM is taking all requisite measures to complete reform of the system of state regulation of foreign economic activity as early as 1993. Yuriy Petrov, deputy foreign economic relations minister, commented on the decisions of the FERM's collegium in a conversation with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent.

In Yuriy Petrov's view, the FERM's strategy is based on the idea that foreign economic regulation should be liberalized. This means replacing administrative methods of regulating foreign economic activity with economic ones, including taxes and customs duties. Mr. Yuriy Petrov stressed, however, that the liberalization of foreign economic activity should be accompanied by a drastic improvement in the system of currency control and currency regulation regarding export and import operations. Besides, so far it is still impossible to protect the domestic market from the "siphoning" out of the country of strategically important products without recourse to non-tariff regulation methods. If the Economics Ministry and the FERM significantly shorten the lists of products subject to quotas and licensing during 1993-1994 (KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported this in July), however, the Central Bank and the FERM will continue "to tighten up the screws" both in currency regulation on the domestic market and in foreign economic activity in order to stop the illegal outflow of currency reserves from Russia. As early as next September, the Central Bank and the FERM will complete a system of currency control over strategic exports. The next in line is to set up systems of currency control over imports, the flow of currency reserves on the domestic market and barter operations, which currently provide the greatest opportunities for violating currency legislation.

A merger of these control systems into an all-Russian network will mark a completion not only of efforts to drastically tighten currency control and currency regulation, but also of the restructuring of the entire state

regulation of foreign economic activity. According to Yuriy Petrov, deputy foreign economic relations minister, it was decided at the FERM collegium meeting that the ministry should continue its efforts to tighten currency and export control. As early as 1993, however, according to a decision by the collegium, one of the FERM's main objectives will be the creation of an all-Russian system of foreign trade promotion.

Gaydar on Monetary Reform, Economic Prospects

MK1908082193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Interview with former Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar by Mikhail Gurevich; place and date not given: "Trust in Money Cannot Be Restored"]

[Excerpts] [Gurevich] During the latest exchange of old banknotes you were on vacation, and Gaydar's silence was really a disappointment (especially in a situation where other economists, for example, Yavlinsky, generously came out with interesting statements). Now that passions over the multi-stage cancellation of banknotes have somewhat subsided, it would be interesting to hear your commentary.

[Gaydar] All right, here is my view of its results. Three arguments were made in favor of this money cancellation move. First: a strike against corruption. What is the result? The cancellation has immediately led to the appearance of many sharply differentiated rates: the rate of new banknotes against old ones; the rate of new bills to the dollar in Russia and in the CIS republics; the rate of old bills to the dollar; and the rate of cash money in the CIS to cash in Russia. Therefore an unprecedented possibility has emerged for a money game. Commercial organizations received a 100-percent guaranteed chance to make several hundred billion out of the air.

The second argument was to clear up relations with the CIS. Of course, it is very inconvenient when in different countries the same currency is used and especially if non-cash money has different value (Kazakh rubles cost less than Russian rubles but were serviced equally). This could not go on for very long and the task of streamlining the situation arose quite legitimately. By the way, the Ministry of Finance has been constantly talking about this in the recent period. In the context of high inflation, a fairly trivial decision could have been made: to stop delivering non-cash Russian money to the neighboring republics, and within three months inflation would begin to fall by itself. Instead, unilateral actions were taken by Russia in violation of the obligations assumed; and this in a situation when the money supply to the immediate neighbors dramatically exceeded all norms: instead of the usual 14 to 15 percent, 36 percent was shipped. Of course, all of our positions at the talks with the CIS became very vulnerable while inflation only surged: We were pumping money to "them" while "they" were returning it to us at triple speed. Plus a sharp fall in the people's trust in the money, a panicky dumping of bills.... And that takes care of the third argument: restraining inflation. Its rate in fact began to slow down in May but in the last few weeks again began to rise.

All these things have produced a combined effect. I said that much to the president. During my vacation I had no telephone: I sat and wrote, I did not listen to or read anything. On 25 July, Sunday, friends told me, and on Monday morning I rushed off to phone Yeltsin, and I told him that I considered that move to be senseless.

[Gurevich] And what was his reaction?

[Gaydar] He listened, but anyway that genie could not be put back into the bottle. The timeframe for the exchange could be extended and the sums allowed for exchange could be enlarged, but what was done could not be undone—trust in the money cannot be returned. The main thing now is to prevent a reproduction of the same situation; namely, without concluding tough treaties and without strict controls in place over the money supply in the neighboring republics, to continue shipping to them containers full of money. [passage omitted]

[Gurevich] How are things turning out within the election bloc Russia's Choice, which has the honor of having you in its leadership?

[Gaydar] The main concern of Russia's Choice, the essence of its program, is to restore Russia's economic growth. The market is functioning in Russia at present, but Russia's economy is not growing and it will not grow until we have put in place the requisite number of market institutions. We have inherited a costly and extremely inefficient state, and without normal operation by the legislative branch it is impossible to restructure it. From constant stopgap measures, we must move to normal effective work, when prices stop rising, interest rates fall, taxes go down, and the people's living standards improve.

[Gurevich] Forecasts, of course, are a thankless business, but perhaps.... What will the situation be in a year from now? At least, what will be the rate of the dollar in 1994?

[Gaydar] This will depend on 1993. If we succeed in forming a capable parliamentary majority, this would be a tremendous breakthrough for shaping Russia's economy and establishing political stability. Then in five years, Russia will be a country with a highly developed economy.

Lobov on Development Programs, 'Signs of Stabilization'

PM1808123193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 1

[Vladimir Khrustov report: "Oleg Lobov: Signs of Stabilization Evident"]

[Text] Those at Oleg Lobov's latest news conference who expected to hear sensational statements from the first vice premier regarding the Ministry of the Economy's

"alternative program" prepared for the Grand Council of Ministers were patently disappointed.

In preparing for the Council of Ministers session several versions of the program were drawn up in parallel. The Ministry of the Economy put forward its own version—the "Program of Urgent Measures To Extricate Russia From Economic Crisis for the Period through 1995." At the same time a specially formed group worked specifically on a program which was also submitted to the Council of Ministers, Oleg Lobov remarked.

Incidentally, we did not insist that our version be referred without fail to the Council of Ministers for discussion, he said. We afforded the right of choice to Viktor Chernomyrdin, who headed the group which prepared the document for the Council of Ministers. Many of the Ministry of the Economy's proposals were taken up in one form or another in the prime minister's report and in the final program. For some reason, however, the Ministry of the Economy's version of the program rather than the one intended for discussion at the Council of Ministers found its way into the press.

A commission to finalize the government's work program, headed by the prime minister, has now been set up. Lobov, Chubays, and Fedorov, who are members of the commission, have been instructed to draw up a plan for the implementation of the work program.

We have no differences on fundamental issues, Oleg Lobov remarked, nor could there be as soon as we got down to this work. How the set tasks are to be carried out is another matter. Here the Ministry of the Economy can have its own opinion and the Committee for Industrial Policy and the Ministry of Agriculture theirs. It is important to combine them to prevent any disagreements in the final plan.

There are no fundamental differences with the Ministry of Finance, say, regarding the pursuit of reform—the transition to market relations. But the Ministry of the Economy, Lobov said, constantly stresses that a comprehensive approach to tackling the problem is needed. A tough credit policy must not be set off against boosting investment activity. But nor can you just stress investment activity, supposing that it alone will "extricate" the economy. There must be a comprehensive approach to tackling the problem. I do not think there are any differences here, but, tactically speaking, they could perfectly well and naturally exist.

Signs of stabilization of the economy are evident, Oleg Lobov stated. The rate of decline of output is slowing. Whereas the figure was 22 percent in January (compared with last year), in July it was already below 15 percent.

If we had managed to obtain credits even in May we could have forecast ending December at last year's level. We have not given up that hope even now, the minister of the economy remarked. I think that the next few months will show the effectiveness of the tough credit and investment policies and the way they are affecting the state of the economy.

Economic Freedom Party Wants 'Privatization War' Stopped

MK1908080193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 4

[Olga Garbuzov report: "Economic Freedom Party on Privatization; Borovoy Demands a Stop to the 'Privatization War'"]

[Text] A press conference held yesterday with the theme: "The Process of Privatization and the Political Climate Around It" was organized by chiefs of the Economic Freedom Party and representatives of the investment funds "Moskovskaya Nedvizhimost," "Alfa Kapital," and the First Investment Voucher Fund. Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, did not take part in the conference despite having been invited and having agreed to attend.

The occasion for the press conference was provided by the elaboration by the Russian Supreme Soviet of a number of acts dealing with privatization, and primarily the well-known decrees invalidating the Russian president's edicts guaranteeing the rights of citizens to take part in privatization. While Anatoliy Chubays had been invited to the press conference, neither he nor any other representatives of the State Committee for the Management of State Property was on hand.

Participants in the event voiced their concern over the way the privatization process in the country is proceeding: they believe the process is not at all irreversible, at least until a considerable sector of property owners has become formed in the country. "There are a number of gaps in current legislation concerning privatization questions: the problem of taxation has not been solved, and interaction between shareholders and joint-stock companies has not been specified," declared Andrey Kosogov, chairman of the "Alfa Kapital Fund" board of directors.

At the same time, the small staff of the State Committee for the Management of State Property is forced to wage a political struggle which adds to the nervousness and muddle of the privatization process, which is already made difficult by a "raw" legislative base, created, the First Investment Voucher Fund board of directors Chairman Mikhail Kharshan maintains, "as a mimeographed copy of someone else's experience." "Should the processes go the way the Supreme Soviet is trying to steer them, millions of property owners would suffer first and foremost, and that would be expropriation," Mr. Kosogov thinks.

Leaders of the Economic Freedom Party qualified the actions by the Supreme Soviet as being out of keeping with normal lawmaking, and called upon all branches of

power to stop the confrontation over privatization, to stop the "privatization war"—to stop dragging privatization into politics.

According to the party leaders, the State Committee for the Management of State Property's reaction to the Supreme Soviet's political moves are too emotional and are thus spurring "government infighting".

Military & Other Issues

Navy Colonel Faces Dismissal for Political Activity

MK1808011993 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 34, 22 Aug 93 (signed to press 17 Aug 93) p A 3

[Unattributed report in "Dismissal" column: "One Has To Know Whom To Guard"]

[Text] According to sources close to the main headquarters of the Russian Navy, the command of the Black Sea Fleet has prepared an order to dismiss Colonel Victor Polosin, commander of a special Black Sea Fleet unit.

According to the same sources, the reason is that during a recent visit to Sevastopol by a delegation of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, a few officers from the special unit in their off-service hours met with the leadership of the Russian delegation. In spite of the fact that servicemen have the right to engage in political activity in their free time, Colonel Polosin is facing discharge from the Russian Navy. Possibly, Polosin's dismissal is due to strong pressure from Ukrainian representatives since the unit that the colonel commands is the most well-trained and can be used by the Fleet's command to guard strategic installations and ships of the Black Sea Fleet.

Latest Developments Not Shown at Tushino Air Show

PM1908075593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By A. Filippov and O. Ivanov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Filippov over video of air show] In connection with Russia's Air Force Day, a traditional show took place today in the skies above Moscow's Tushino airfield, where the state's might in the skies was displayed.

World class aviation and parachute sport specialists were showing off their skills in the air. Test pilots from the Sky Hussars detachment proved yet again that aerobatics performed by Russian aces on Su-27, MiG-29, and Su-25 are a unique sight. Spectators also saw the strategic Tu-160, the Il-78, Tu-22, and the An-124.

Incidentally, the program was largely a repetition of last year's. Our latest helicopters and fighters were not in the skies today. However, the machines that were shown will soon be replaced by new, more sophisticated ones on which aviation plant designers and labor collectives are currently working. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Presents Medals to Cosmonauts, Democracy Defenders

LD1908001893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2200 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov on Kremlin award ceremony, including recorded remarks by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in Moscow on 18 August]

[Text] On Wednesday a solemn ceremony was held in the Kremlin for the presentation of state awards. Among those receiving awards were Russian and French cosmonauts and also a large group of defenders of the Russian White House during the putsch. Vyacheslav Osipov has the details.

[Osipov] Moscow, the Kremlin's Vladimir Hall, and the Russian Federation President is handing out state awards.

[Yeltsin] Dear friends, I think today is a joyful day for those receiving awards. It is a joyful day for us to award cosmonaut Aleksandr Fedorovich Poleshchuk the hero of the Russian Federation star. A large group of those who defended the White House in 1991 are being awarded with the defender of Russia's freedom medal.

[passage omitted]

[Osipov] Concluding the ceremony, the Russian president noted:

[Yeltsin] The genuine victory of the new Russia is still to come, but I am convinced that it will come and probably each of you will participate in that victory.

Atomic Energy Minister on Nuclear Issues, Ukraine

MK1808110193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 93 pp 1,3

[Interview with Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov by Andrey Vaganov under "Armaments" rubric; place and date not given: "It Will Take Ukraine Several Decades To Become a Nuclear Power. The Russian Nuclear Arms Complex, According to Russian Federation Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov, Is Not In Any Way Inferior to That of the United States' and Is Evaluated at $5 Billion"]

[Text] Viktor Nikitovich Mikhaylov was born in 1934. In 1957, when he was still a student at the Moscow Physical Engineering Institute, on the recommendation of Academicians Ya.B. Zelgovich and A.D. Sakharov, he was sent on special assignment to the secret city of Arzamas 16 to write his graduation thesis on the subject

of compression of super-small masses of active nuclear materials. Prior to that, he passed the famous "theoretical minimum" to Lev Landau. Slightly more than 40 people have succeeded at that during the entire period.

After graduating from the Moscow Physical Engineering Institute, he was assigned to work at Arzamas-16 on a regular basis. There, he moved up all the steps of the career ladder: from junior research associate, to head of a department, to professor.

In 1969, he was sent to Moscow to work at the Scientific and Research Institute of Impulse Technology to develop diagnostic systems and methods of registering rapid processes. As at Arzamas- 16, he moved up from head of a department to director and scientific supervisor.

In November 1988, he was appointed deputy minister in charge of the nuclear arms complex of the USSR Atomic Energy and Industry Ministry.

Since March 1992, following a Russian presidential edict, he has been the Russian Federation's atomic energy minister.

He takes special pride in the fact that in 1988, he was in charge of a group of our specialists in a joint experiment aimed at improving the methods of monitoring the power of subterranean nuclear explosions in the United States and in the USSR.

[Vaganov] Here is a question which it is difficult not to ask. Ukraine has officially announced that it is the owner of nuclear weapons. Already last year, reports appeared that Ukraine was trying to develop an independent system of codes, or, as they say, to acquire its own "nuclear black box." How feasible is this from a purely technical point of view?

[Mikhaylov] I have just returned from Kiev, on Saturday, where I stayed for two days. We discussed an agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on dismantling strategic nuclear forces. Our delegation was headed by Ambassador-at-large Yuriy Dubinin. We agreed on and inked the basic principles of compensation for nuclear active materials; and we heard no statements to the effect that you have mentioned. Apparently our mass media have been giving overly liberal interpretations to particular statements. Quite to the contrary, we came to a mutual understanding on questions of dismantling nuclear strategic forces in Ukraine and on compensation for this dismantling; and I was even surprised that such an agreement has not been completed before now. Some people must be benefiting from preserving tensions in relations between our states.

[Vaganov] Nonetheless, references are being made to Ukrainian scientists....

[Mikhaylov] I can express my own opinion. In order for Ukraine to become a nuclear power, many, many decades would be needed; and also funds, which it lacks. I think, rather to the contrary, at present Ukraine needs both the Nonproliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency's guarantees; and this desire does exist in Ukraine. Of course, it is Ukraine itself that will decide on the timeframe for this process.

Anything could be developed in principle. But what would it cost? The whole of Russia has worked to create our present nuclear complex. It is estimated today at around $5 billion. I am not even saying that a corresponding scientific basis is needed, production facilities, qualified specialists, and an infrastructure. Many countries have $5 billion "to spare." But in order to create requisite teams, decades would be needed. (According to expert estimates, the value of the basic assets of the U.S. Energy Ministry's nuclear arms complex is estimated at over $15 billion).

Therefore, in my opinion, this question has been virtually settled with Ukraine, and in the near future a corresponding agreement will be signed.

[Vaganov] What is Russia's current nuclear arms complex like? What is its place in the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry's overall volume of work?

[Mikhaylov] At present, there are approximately 1 million employees working under the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry: at enterprises, in research institutes, design organizations, and production complexes. In the ministry itself, there are some 900 officers. (Incidentally, when the ministry was formed in 1953—at that time it was called the Ministry of Medium Machine Building—the number of its employees was 3,031). Projects related to the nuclear arms complex constitute 15 percent, while the remaining 85 percent are civilian projects.

Russia's nuclear arms complex is, without exaggeration, a unique one. It incorporates 10 closed cities with an overall number of some 700,000 people. Among them are two federal centers that have a worldwide reputation—the All-Russia Scientific and Research Institute of Experimental Physics (Arzamas-16) and the All-Russia Scientific and Research Institute of Technical Physics (Chelyabinsk- 70).

[Vaganov] What does it cost the taxpayer to pay for the upkeep of the nuclear arms complex?

[Mikhaylov] Owing to inflation, it is very difficult to keep track of the prices. But even in the better days, in comparable prices, we spent three to four times less than the United States was spending on its national laboratories and the corresponding nuclear complex. Moreover, in terms of the volume, everything that we created within that complex exceeds by 1.5 to 2 times everything created by other nuclear powers.

In 1990 prices, each taxpayer is paying approximately 10 rubles for the upkeep of the nuclear arms complex.

[Vaganov] I know that you have recently returned from Arzamas- 16. What was the aim of your trip there?

[Mikhaylov] First of all, I am the scientific supervisor of that center. Yuliy Borisovich Khariton, who directed the Federal Center for over 40 years, has now retired. In February 1994, he will be 90. He has remained our honorary scientific adviser. Therefore, I visit that center more often than other installations. But the latest trip was related not only to the development of a number of scientific programs, including conversion projects, but also to the very complicated financial and economic condition of the center. Although now we have paid salaries up to July, there was a delay of more than three months.

[Vaganov] And what is the average salary?

[Mikhaylov] At that center it is approximately 40,000 rubles. But as of 1 July, it was raised to 74,000. True, today, owing to a shortage of cash, we have not yet paid these new salaries.

[Vaganov] A "brain-drain" from Arzamas-16: Would it be correct to say that this problem exists?

[Mikhaylov] The question of the brain drain in nuclear physics needs qualification. In high energy physics, in superconductivity physics, and in thermonuclear synthesis—in these areas our specialists have always been actively working in, among others, the United States, on the Dallas supercollider (for details on the supercollider project, see NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA no. 118, 26 June 1993—A.V.); in Geneva, and in other nuclear centers around the world; and this remains one of the principles of our ministry's work.

As for the brain drain in the nuclear arms complex, this does not exist at present. Our country is very strictly implementing the 1968 treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and related technology. With respect to manpower turnover, in 1992 and in the eight months of this year, we lost some 30,000 scientific and research workers in all of our centers.

[Vaganov] The current year has been rich in the number of accidents and incidents at plutonium-related production facilities: Tomsk-7, Chelyabinsk-70. To put it bluntly, this looks like a regularity rather than an accident. What sort of evil fate is pursuing plutonium production facilities?

[Mikhaylov] I should like to begin a little from afar. Our nuclear power stations, according to international expert appraisals, have performed considerably better in terms of these indicators during this year than nuclear power stations in France, Britain, or Germany, and particularly the United States. In fact, we are second only to the Japanese. We have halved the coefficient of incidents involving automatic defense activation during these 8 months. In 1992 alone, more than 1,000 foreign specialists and approximately 100 international delegations visited our nuclear power stations.

Now, as for radio-chemical production facilities, in Tomsk-7, indeed, there was a serious incident (a radioactive leakage—40 curies). At the Mayak plant in Chelyabinsk-70, there was a discharge of 0.2 milli-curies. Next to Chernobyl, these things are not comparable. Although I must admit frankly that all of our radiochemical complexes are very old; and all of us, including myself, thought that everything had been perfected at these complexes during these years. Today, however, we have stopped many installations for prophylactic and modernization work, including work to upgrade normative and technical documentation.

At Tomsk-7, by the way, the shop where the accident occurred has already been put back into operation and all the consequences have been removed. At Mayak, the scale of the incident is thousands of times smaller. Nonetheless, I agree with you that it is necessary to be extra careful with this complex.

Ten years ago, no one would have known about these incidents. For us, these are very local incidents.

[Vaganov] Does this mean that there were also such incidents ten years ago?

[Mikhaylov] Today, looking through the documents, I can see that there were—involving discharges of several curie or several dozen curie.

This is why I believe that today it is necessary to restore production documentation based on modern safety and security requirements; and also taking into account the requirements of openness. And possibly several years from now, we shall have to raise independent monitoring to an international level, for example, the level of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[Vaganov] There are several thousand nuclear charges in the world. Nuclear test programs involve on average ten tests a year in each country. If, as is maintained, nuclear tests are necessary to test the security and safety of their storage, then simply in order to get reliable statistics, more tests need to be conducted than the number of the existing charges themselves. Therefore, there does not seem to be any technical necessity for holding such tests. Far more information could be obtained by merely dismantling and inspecting a particular nuclear charge.

[Mikhaylov] No, this is an incorrect premise. Invariably even a limited number of experiments can provide a fairly large volume of information; and we shall not be able to get this information by simulating corresponding situations with modern computers. The processes of the formation of an explosion in a nuclear charge are so complicated that there will be many inaccuracies in their simulation.

[Vaganov] Maybe, indeed, in order to break the vicious nuclear circle, unilateral steps are needed?

[Mikhaylov] There is a certain danger in this. With such complicated devices as nuclear weapons, it is very important to have an experimental basis. For instance,

we know that the United States has already conducted more than 40 tests of third-generation nuclear weapons. These are weapons which in terms of their global pollution effect are hundreds of times less damaging than conventional weapons. They work like a scalpel, "cutting out" particular targets and causing only local radioactive pollution. The temptation to use such weapons is fairly great.

[Vaganov] Without revealing any state secrets, could you say whether any work is being done in Russia along these lines?

[Mikhaylov] I can say that our nuclear arms complex, its scientific, technological, design, and production capacity today is in no way inferior to that of the United States.

[Vaganov] Recently it has been reported that there are plans to use the testing site in Novaya Zemlya as a nuclear burial place for radioactive waste. What is the real situation here?

[Mikhaylov] So far, proposals have only come from the Navy and from representatives of the Murmansk Oblast administration concerning waste storage, including waste from nuclear submarines. No concrete decisions have been made. Other alternatives are being considered and compared.

The testing grounds on Novaya Zemlya is Russia's federal testing site. With the negligible funds that are being allocated to us, we are trying to keep it in good functional condition. Our task is, in the event that someone breaches the moratorium, to ensure Russia's readiness to conduct subterranean nuclear tests.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Answers Viewers' Questions

LD1808180593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Studio phone-in program with Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, hosted by unidentified announcer; from the "Parliamentary Hour" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Good evening, the Parliamentary Hour is on live. As promised, Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, will answer viewers' questions over a whole hour. Ruslan Imranovich, as soon as we announced our meeting three days ago, the telephones in our editorial offices have been busy ever since, you know. I do not know how surprising you will find it, but almost all those who managed to get through to us asked us to express and convey to you their support and gratitude. People trust you and they trust the parliament.

[Khasbulatov] Thank you. I have been told that already more than 3,000 questions have come in. As you understand yourself, I am naturally unable to respond to all of them. Nonetheless, I would like to thank everyone for the interest shown in our Parliamentary Hour broadcast and for their efforts to put their questions in the hope, naturally, that answers to them will be forthcoming. I will endeavor to give specific answers and maybe follow this up with letters and subsequent appearances.

All in all, there is, of course, a great deal of concern among the people regarding the situation that has come about, above all the economic situation. Second, our people, as far as I can gather, are interested in the issues of the political crisis, the excessive politicization of the constitutional problems. It is noted here that all societies in all states are concerned about constitutional problems—but why wage battles around the issue of resolving these questions? There is also a large number of questions connected with the television and it is, perhaps, in this area that I would like to begin my answers.

[Announcer] Please go ahead.

[Khasbulatov] [passage omitted] The decision here, the initiator, incidentally, of Russian television, the Supreme Soviet is a state body not a private firm, so then Ostankino as well, incidentally, costs us, costs you, costs our whole society 30 billion rubles; this is your money. [sentence as heard]. Right. Somebody is trying to use this money in your name, but in his own interests. But under the constitution, by law, only the Supreme Soviet has the right to allocate your funds, the budget—only the Supreme Soviet.

It is in the Supreme Soviet that you have vested the right to distribute these resources, to give, or refrain to give certain amounts. So, does the Supreme Soviet not have this right? Let us put it this way—in your interests and at your request, a certain hour is set aside in order to report some television news and altogether everything that the Supreme Soviet thinks fit; it is, after all, the Supreme Soviet, right? So, this is the crux of the matter. And that is why I think that one ought to have a correct understanding of one's role, one's significance, and this goes for television personnel, too. I even think that in all probability this one hour on Russian Television is insufficient for us, taking account of the enormous number of letters coming in here.

[Announcer] There are, indeed, many telephone calls, too.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, and these come from the Russian population living in other CIS states. They say we have no opportunities for watching the Parliamentary Hour. In particular, Nadezhda Mikhaylovna Ivanova from Bryansk Oblast has written to me. I visited my sister, she says, and I watched Parliamentary Hour every day for several days. Naturally we do not have this Parliamentary Hour and should not you organize this work properly, through Ostankino too? I think we will manage to organize this work through Ostankino, too, so that our fellow countrymen in close neighboring countries may watch these broadcasts.

Incidentally, members of parliament are also interested in Parliamentary Hour and they would be pleased to be able to watch it.

[Announcer] Yes, but you know, Ruslan Imranovich, I must tell you what seems to me to be a piece of good news: An acquaintance of mine rang me yesterday. The Parliamentary Hour is watched in Feodosiya, and it is watched in Dushanbe, so people are watching it.

[Khasbulatov] [passage omitted] Now take a question like this, from Moscow, Valeriy Ivanovich Zinin: Do you plan to make an appeal to the armed forces, Interior Ministry, and Security Ministry and to all citizens of Russia on 20 August, saying that carrying out orders from whoever might give them will be viewed as unconstitutional activity? Esteemed Valeriy Ivanovich, the fact is that in accordance with legislation adopted by the Russian parliament, unlawful orders should not be carried out. That is a principle of the new legislation, it is laid down. So if, not only on 20 August, but in general and on principle, some orders should be given clearly contradicting the existing constitution, legislation, legal institutions of authority, no matter by whom given, naturally people, including ones with epaulettes, should not carry out these orders. What is more, carrying out these orders will mean committing a crime, even if these orders are given to them by superiors. Whoever it may be, I repeat, that is the principle of the legislation. It is laid down and it is in effect.

From Moscow, Anatoliy Nikanorovich Makeyev. The congress of people's deputies adopted a decision on introducing the institution of presidential power in this country. Will this decision be rescinded at the next congress of people's deputies? I think only the Supreme Soviet and a strong prime minister are needed.

Esteemed Anatoliy Nikanorovich, yet again I want to tell you and our fellow citizens that the people's deputies of the Russian Federation are, in their majority, overwhelming majority, certainly not some sort of extreme revolutionaries. They are certainly not trying to remove the president or abolish presidential power. And the majority of the congress and the majority of the Supreme Soviet and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet insist on one thing only: Respect the constitution and respect the law. This, then, is the point at issue. That is why, of course, it seems to me that the congress will not adopt this viewpoint—let's abolish the institution of presidency or let's carry out some mini-revolutions. True, we are constantly being reproached and not simply reproached, but accused of this. But it is not we who violate the laws. On the contrary, we demand the observance of constitutional legality.

From Saratov Oblast, Nikolay Petrovich Nipershin, when will the long-awaited law on war and labor veterans be adopted? This law is already at the stage of readiness. It has already been discussed and adopted in the first reading. I think that soon this long- awaited law will indeed and at long last be adopted. [passage omitted]

This quesation comes from Nabokova Valentina Vasilyevna, Moscow: Does the parliament have an alternative, well thought-out program for creating a strong law-governed state which would enjoy the support of the people? If the answer is yes, then why does the parliament not bring it out to be openly discussed by the public?

Well, the program for creating a state—if what is meant here is an economic program, then we already had such a program even back at the time when Yegor Timurovich Gaydar was prime minister. It was proposed, I spoke at the session of the Supreme Soviet outlining the main components of this program. It was approved and offered to the government. Now many people today are inclined to think that if this program had been adopted at that time, we would not have got ourselves into such an abyss. [passage omitted]

[Khasbulatov] Well, there it is, you have probably already heard that there was some sort of sitting of some kind of presidential crime-fighting commission today. What did they decide, on what would seem to be the very highest level? To send documents about Vice President Rutskoy to the Constitutional Court. Next, to send an appeal to the Supreme Soviet on removing the procurator general, the one who is trying to fight crime, from his post.

To move on—what has been done about crime? You know that the Security Ministry apparatus which also, incidentally, endeavored to fight crime, is virtually paralyzed. Finally, as regards the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, more and more funds earmarked by the Supreme Soviet for organizing the fight against crime are being channelled by the ministry, to a large extent, into creating shock units of one kind or another, which are not involved in the fight against crime. You know the sort of thing—OMON [special purpose militia units] and OMSDON [Dzerzhinskiy special-purpose motorized infantry division]. These are specialized units trained to combat street demonstrations, marches, the sort of thing that took place in Moscow on May Day. And while they are stepping up some sort of political manhunt, the criminals, naturally enough—because law enforcement bodies are being less active—take over the streets and they are not being fought seriously.

And so the government is completely losing the fight—the battle—against crime. That's the reality of the situation today. Parliament, of course, does not, as you know, possess the powers—the executive powers—but that's precisely where the government comes in. It's the government that ought to act. But under our law—our laws—when we demanded that the president dismiss the internal affairs minister, who really was the organizer of the May Day slaughter—and incidentally, under the constitution, the post must be agreed and ratified by the Supreme Soviet—of course that minister, Yerin, should have been removed and, in his place, the president or the head of government should have proposed a different,

competent person to the Supreme Soviet. But there you have it, this acting minister who is incapable of fighting crime carries on in his job.

Another minister, who had better fighting qualities, has been arbitrarily dismissed, in disregard of the proper procedure. The whole system of law enforcement bodies is therefore paralyzed. In addition, attempts are being now made to remove the procurator general precisely because he is heading this work.

So this is the current situation. What should the Supreme Soviet do? It is a real situation but we cannot violate the law and the constitution. The government, the head of government and the president are those who should play an active part here. But it looks like neither is interested in combating crime in an efficient way. So there you are. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Ruslan Imranovich, more questions have arrived, they are here on the table.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, there are many here. Take this one from Yakovlev, Viktor Nikolayevich: Do the leaders of those subjects of the federation in which a vote of no confidence in the president was expressed have a right to sign the federation treaty and participate in commissions for working out the presidential draft constitution?

What is probably meant here is whether the leaders of the subjects of the federation have a right to initial, to approve any variant of the draft constitution. No, nobody has such right. Why? Because in accordance with the Supreme Soviet's resolution, the draft constitution should be discussed by people's deputies at the sessions of the supreme soviets of our republics, oblasts, and krays. And the oblast and kray deputies as well as the supreme soviets of the republics should be expressing their views. This will then provide a serious indication of the attitude that a given republic, oblast, kray, or an autonomous territory has on this constitution. [passage omitted

[Announcer] Ruslan Imranovich, thank you. If you do not mind, let's answer the pile of questions which we have just been brought into the studio.

[Khasbulatov] OK. So, from Gomel in Belarus, Sovelyeva: At what stage are we now in the work on the law on dual citizenship, and how do you regard the new initiatives by deputies of the Belarus Supreme Soviet on the need for political union with Russia?

First of all, we in the Russian Federation have from the very beginning been for the adoption of a law and for granting dual citizenship, on a mutual basis, naturally. So, of course, I agree with this, and from other viewpoints—I am the chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries, you see. We, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, discussed this and in general were also in favor of at least the principle of dual citizenship and, maybe combined citizenship, too, and therefore, multi-citizenship.

As regards the new initiatives by Supreme Soviet deputies on the need for an economic, political, and defense union, we spoke out in favor of this long ago. The Kazakh president was very keen on this. I, for example, can only express satisfaction that, finally, our president, Boris Nikolayevich, has also agreed to this idea, if only in theory so far.

Why am I talking about this? Because it is precisely from our side, from official Russia, that you very often see a kind of inertia when it comes to bringing the CIS countries closer together. Unfortunately, this is especially the case in the sphere of economic agreements and their implementation, and even our CIS friends are getting the impression that the Russian leadership seems in general to want to ruin the Commonwealth. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, I would like to say that I am not familiar with these questions, I read them out as they are coming in.

What is your attitude to today's news conference held by Makarov and Kalmykov—that is, lawyer Makarov and Justice Minister Kalmykov—and their struggle against corruption? I have not yet listened to this news conference. I have only heard reports on the work of this commission headed by Justice Minister Kalmykov. On the whole, my attitude to the struggle against corruption is, naturally, that which is becoming to a state official. But I would like to recall that I put forward the idea of adopting a special law on combating corruption exactly 18 months ago, and I am still backing it. We have finally adopted this law on combating corruption, with great difficulties. There were objective difficulties here, too, because the subject itself is difficult and complicated. We adopted it, eventually, and sent it further to be signed by the president. It was returned to us the other day. So you can see from this to what degree Justice Minister Kalmykov and lawyer Makarov are interested in fighting corruption if they did not allow the president to sign the law or fighting corruption. [passage omitted; announcer invites Khasbulatov to watch more video interviews taken on Moscow streets, with people complaining about their daily hardships]

[Khasbulatov] Well, these are really tragic pictures indeed, nothing joyful about them. It is even difficult to comment on them. If I could just single out the main problems here—the problem of pensions, for example. Just imagine the situation our old people would be facing if the Supreme Soviet did not take the pension fund under its protection! I am convinced that it would have been bankrupt long time ago and today our pensioners would be getting nothing at all. [passage omitted]

Two months ago I proposed to the government—I mean, I proposed to the Supreme Soviet, and the Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision accordingly—and we expect that the government will issue a draft law by 1 September which would reduce the taxes for manufacturers by 50 percent. [passage omitted] So of course we

will improve and perfect tax legislation in such a way that it will be worthwhile for producers of goods to operate. [passage omitted; reads out question on 1 May]

The leadership of the mayoralty of Moscow and Yerin, minister of internal affairs, bear responsibility for the disorders and bloodshed of 1 May. Naturally, it is thus not a coincidence that it was decided at the Supreme Soviet to recommend to the president that Minister Yerin be removed from his post. [passage omitted; asks why the president does not follow the recommendation] According to the constitution, to the law, this should be implemented. Therefore this decision should be implemented.

So now, St. Petersburg, Zhabravets, Vladimir Ovramich: When will there be compensation for pre-1992 savings? How will the question of interest-free bonds be resolved?

I would like to say that at the congress a decision was adopted on compensation for people's savings up to January 1991. That is, for the period when the process of unrestrained price increases started along with the accompanying devaluation of these investments. Now the Higher Economic Council and subdivisions of the Supreme Soviet are working on a mechanism for compensation of payments. This measure, by the way, is supported by the government, and I think we will be able to resolve this question along with the question of interest-free bonds. I hope that we will be able to resolve this issue in the next few months.

[Announcer] Ruslan Imranovich, we will take a break here. We have another piece of video from the streets of Moscow.

[Begin video recording] [Correspondent] What would you wish Ruslan Imranovich?

[Passer-by] All the very best that can be wished, success, as they say, in everything, nothing more.

[Second passer-by] For a year and three days exactly now I have been in Moscow as a result of fate, not of my choosing, since the Georgian occupiers have gone into sovereign Abkhaz territory and occupied it. I would like to ask Ruslan Imranovich a question. Ruslan Imranovich, you know well that justice will always be on the side of Abkhazia and that the confederates are fighting [as heard] What do you think, when will it all end and what would be your message to Shevardnadze? You know what he is doing, people are dying, children do not have the basics even for going to school. I would like to ask you what you think about this and when you intend telling Shevardnadze to stop this dissension. Thank you.

[Third passer-by] I have a simple question: when will the economic and political situation in our country be normal? [end recording] [passage omitted; Khasbulatov comments on importance os issues raised, says he has always said a stop must be put to the situation]

[Khasbulatov] Of course you need to settle relations by peaceful means. I do not see any, you know, insurmountable forces obstructing the settlement of this problem [Abkhazia] while there is goodwill. All the more so because Mr. Shevardnadze is himself a well-known politician, he knows what democratic rules and human rights are, and probably should not breach these human rights in his own country. All the more so because he recognizes the rights of other countries and other nations when he speaks from international platforms and at authoritative organizations, well, he should probably treat the issue with the same respect in his own country. [passage omitted; says Supreme Soviet is willing to assist in finding a peaceful solution. He is also worried by the situation in Chechnya]

I am very alarmed by the situation which has come about in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. There are refugees on each side, tens of thousands of refugees, including children and old people. Winter is drawing closer. Unfortunately, the government's position is very weak there. You know about the tragic events over there, a terrorist act against a respected person who could really have done something in that region. Maybe those forces which would like to maintain tension, and not only in that region but throughout south Russia, had got scared?

As long as a year ago, we told the government and the president that the stability of the entire south Russia was under threat. It is a question of testing Russian statehood. Certain forces would like to see a weak Russia and are carrying out a reconnaissance in force in order to demonstrate the helplessness of Russia's executive authority. They are maintaining tension in Chechnya, with its masquerade regime—well, you may call it masquerade but almost 1,000 people have been killed there over the past two years, and there was bloodshed there recently, too. It is a masquerade regime all right, but no relevant measures are being taken. Russian oil is being pumped over there, petroleum products are being exported abroad from there, and some people are making profits, and not only in Groznyy but in Moscow, too.

We see all of this. When will an end be put to all this? I repeat that the parliament was doing and is doing all it can, but efficient actions are required from the president and the executive. It is high time, after all. Do we not have a government and executive power? We would like to know this. [passage omitted; announcer reads out a long question on whether Khasbulatov and the parliament are capable of saving Russia]

[Khasbulatov] I can tell you absolutely clearly and firmly that yes, we are in a condition to do so. We understand now more than ever before that the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation really is a powerful political factor, the only factor capable of stabilizing the situation in the country. I think that this is already understood by the majority of Russians, in the light of the fact that, after all, other political forces are destabilising the situation. We, on the other hand, are striving for peaceful

development of events in our country, bearing in mind everybody's interests. We absolutely are not stirring the air with any calls for the overthrow of one thing or another, or a third. We want to say to people and to all political forces, let's sit at a table and see what our disagreements are and act on the basis of people's interests. [passage omitted; says he has the support of the Supreme Soviet on this; thinks disagreements can be overcome in the name of economic stabilization; he has received many questions on the government and why it is made up of inept people who are not interested in tackling the economy]

There are some interesting questions here. From Volzhskiy—Faredzheyev, Yuliy: How do you see your political future, and do you have any thoughts about writing a book about the first Russian parliament?

Well, I have already written a book on that, a small one, it's called "Vlast" [Power] and it's about the work of the Russian parliament. As far as my political future is concerned, I would like to say once again that I don't see myself as some kind of big political figure. I would like to say to you honestly that I am doing this job because I have to! Why, because I simply know that at this moment I have to fulfill the role which I do. [passage omitted]

From Stavropol. An employee of Ostankino television, did not give a name for obvious reasons. The Pyatigorsk television and radio studio, broadcasting to the whole of Stavropol kray, began transmitting advertisements and advertising announcements read out by an announcer at 1844 without any explanation even though the schedule said there should be Parliamentary Hour. Right now they are showing a documentary on lacework in Vologda and winter landscapes [announcer giggles]. He hung up after saying that. [passage omitted; criticizing people in power who make fun of Parliamentary Hour and refuse the right to freedom of speech] Films are overwhelmed by commercials.

[Announcer] Endless commercials.

[Khasbulatov] Endless commercials. So we intend to pass a law forbidding television studios to make advertisements like that. And of course we will also pass a law which will punish, I think under criminal law, the arbitrary switching off of people's information. Because here there are infringements of the rights of the citizen, when inside a free state he is deliberately deprived of the opportunity to view what he wishes to view. What is more, in doing this they call themselves democrats of a kind. This is simply absurd. Look, this is wild arbitrariness.

The learned individuals in our television, Russian television, headed by esteemed Oleg Maksimovich Poptsov, should give their attention to this instead of complaining to the whole world about the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, saying that television viewers in our country are being prevented from watching Mariana or "The rich—

[Announcer, interrupting] "Santa Barbara"

[Khasbulatov] "Santa Barbara" or "The Rich Also Weep" [soap operas now being shown on television in Russia]. This is altogether hypocrisy, of course. It is no adornment to anyone.

This question now comes from Larisa Semenovna Abramova in Novgorod. Larisa Semenovna writes that her privatization voucher for the nominal value of 10,000 rubles [R] was valued at a voucher auction as being worth three R100 shares. Is this not a mockery, she asks.

Yes, it is a mockery, esteemed Larisa Semenovna. This is why we have adopted appropriate Supreme Soviet resolutions. The sense of these resolutions very briefly is that under our laws privatization can be implemented only on the basis of a law. No decrees in this area are valid. That is the first point. This is because, if we adopt a law, what is now happening, where a R10,000 voucher is being transformed into R100, will be impossible. Therefore first of all, Chubays' department has, of course, deceived tens of millions of people, transforming them into homeless people and originally deceiving them by this gift of a few thousand rubles. It is, of course, all much more complicated. Now that we have put a certain barrier in the way of these decisions, the accusation is being levelled at us that the Supreme Soviet is allegedly hampering privatization. No, we are not hampering it. We are saying: Provide us with a privatization program and a draft law. We want to ensure that people receive the real value of the privatization vouchers they have received.

Incidentally, we are at the moment working on a regulation whereby your voucher, which had a value of R10,000, will also be index-linked. The Supreme Soviet has taken this up, and the government, too, is due to carry this out. But, as you see, Chubays' department is not concerned about this. The main thing, ideologically, is to go ahead with it, and to say, right, you are the owner of such and such, and then say that the Supreme Soviet is standing in the way of your becoming an owner, and is squandering state property. And what will your children live on? Take those military people, say, who are undergoing service—when they return to the reserve, your children will be growing up, and it appears that the state has no property in reserve to pass on to anyone, to sell to anyone. Well, what they want is—literally over a few months—under the guise of privatization, to sell off the more profitable enterprises.

We are saying: We are not against privatization, in no way, but what we want is for this process to develop in an orderly manner and on the basis of the law. I would also like to say that after 30 May there has not been a single law which would have given an opportunity for privatization to be implemented on a legal, a legislative basis. What will the government do if kollektivs suddenly start appealing to the Constitutional Court, for example? [passage omitted; repeats that parliament is not against

privatization, but there should be a law on it; answers question about why the payment of wages and pensions to military officers living or serving in other CIS countries is subject to the laws of those countries, says that the Supreme Soviet is making serious efforts to ensure that the government and the Finance Ministry honor their obligations to servicemen abroad]

I want to tell you, esteemed military friends, that a totally impossible situation has been created in effect: not just in the former Union republics, but even on the territory of our own country, many officers do not receive their salaries for 3-4 months. Why not? I want to tell you that it is the Ministry of Finance that is really to blame; with the president's backing, it is not implementing the law of the Russian Federation. I want to say that we have allocated sufficient money to pay wages and carry out the programs, the social programs, and above all the pension programs.

Next, together with that question, a large number of questions are being asked here: Why has the budget been returned to you by the president?

The point is that we did not agree to the slashing of budget resources for science, for health care, for culture, or for education. The Supreme Soviet did not agree that expenditure for these purposes should be cut substantially—more precisely, by almost one-third. Can the Russian Federation, can Russia, really do without science, without education, without culture? How can one agree to such slashing of expenditure on them?

What is quite different is that we would willingly agree to a significant cut in spending on the machinery of government that is swelling rapidly both here, in Moscow, on the federal level, and in the localities.

Did you know that there are more civil servants now working in management structures at federal level than [there were] at Union level? Just imagine. [passage omitted; complains of mushrooming of expensive organizations; says the first thing Clinton did on inauguration was to cut his own staff by 25 percent. There are now over 20,000 Russian presidential staff, which is unheard of and worse even than the Shah of Iran or the Czar, costing R30-40 billion; responding to another question, says some deputies seek privileges and abuse their position]

Abuse of position in our country is of a lobbyist nature. For example, I view with disfavor the activities of our Committee for Defense and Security and its leader Stepashin. I view with disfavor the activities of Aslanbek Aslakhanov's committee for the struggle against crime. Why? Because these two heads have turned our parliamentary committees into an extension of the corresponding ministries. In other words, in practical terms, they do not control the Security Ministry or the Defense Ministry, as required of them by the constitution. On the contrary, they are playing the part, as it were, of a lobbyist, as an extension of these ministries at parliamentary level.

We have, therefore, been virtually deprived of the serious opportunity of carrying out control functions over the activities of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Security, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, by virtue of the fact that these two committee chairmen have become an extension—they see themselves as deputies of these ministries, and they are upholding the cooperative interests of the leadership of these departments. This is not to our liking.

So it is not by mere chance that we in the Supreme Soviet are raising the question of dismissing those two committee chairmen from their respective posts. I personally will support those deputies who insist on a decision to that effect.

[Announcer] [passage omitted] We are handing you the questions that you did not have time to answer, in the hope that you will be a constant visitor to the studio and that you will be able to answer all the questions that are of concern to people in Russia. [passage omitted]

Khasbulatov: Coup Attempts 'Doomed to Total Failure'

MK1908091193 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

[Interview with Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov by POSTFACTUM news agency, special to MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA; place and date not given; under general headline: "Russia From August to August; Two Years Later"]

[Text] [POSTFACTUM] What was August 1991 for Russia? What positions would you have taken at the time had you known how everything would turn out in the end?

[Khasbulatov] My positions would have been the same. At the time we did everything that the situation called for and we defended the constitutional path of political development. It is another matter, which I personally did not expect, that within such a short time span we would find ourselves in such a deplorable situation; I did not expect that the victorious executive branch would choose the sprouts of democracy, i.e., the parliament, as its first target.

[POSTFACTUM] Is "August" possible today?

[Khasbulatov] I cannot guarantee that such attempts will not be undertaken. Members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency were extremely short-sighted people and today, after so much has been written about their mistakes, their negative experience can be "studied and taken into account." I am extremely worried by Viktor Barannikov's dismissal—absolutely without reason, as a result of which the Security Ministry has been completely paralyzed. I am also worried by the mass movement of army units, the formation of new paramilitary structures with vague tasks and functions, a renewed interest in underground communications

leading from the Supreme Soviet to the Kremlin, and a number of other factors. Nonetheless, I believe that in the current political situation, the Supreme Soviet has no less popular support than the president, and by virtue of this, any attempts at a coup are doomed to total failure.

Khasbulatov Attempts To 'Win Over' Local Leaders

MK1808121193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 3

[Nika Stark report: "Federation Components Conference; Speaker Thinks Reelection of President Necessary"]

[Text] No "momentous" decisions were made at the behind-the-scenes conference of components of the Federation held by Ruslan Khasbulatov in the White House yesterday. Yet, according to Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Ryabov, the main purpose of this meeting was to scuttle all the positive outcome of the conference of heads of republics in Petrazavodsk. The speaker once again criticized the government's "destructive budget policy" and proposed in the same breath that the question of reelecting the president be raised because, in Ruslan Khasbulatov's view, there is no power in the country.

The conference of heads of the local soviets is unlikely to lead to any significant change in the political situation. Most probably, it will not detract from the president's Karelian achievements, because those gathered in the White House were "second in command." Still, there is an obvious attempt by the Supreme Soviet chairman to win over to his side at least the second echelon of local authorities. Khasbulatov succeeded at that, judging from the general tenor of the closed-door conference (journalists were only allowed to listen to the speaker's introductory "economic" speech where he railed, as usual, at the finance minister, while in fact holding up the section on structural adjustment of industry as a positive aspect of the government's economic program).

According to maverick Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabov, who talked to the press after the conference, the few sensible voices were neutralized by a number of stock orators.

The report by Constitutional Commission Secretary Ivan Fedoseyev on the situation with the draft of Russia's new constitution elicited virtually no reaction from conference participants, with the exception of perhaps the speaker alone. Ruslan Khasbulatov remarked that he had always regarded positively the idea for the Constitutional Commission and the Constitutional Conference working together, and that "the president would hardly agree with this."

Simultaneously, the speaker thought that the only version of the constitution that could be put to discussion by the Supreme Soviet and then by the Congress was the one drafted by the Constitutional Commission's working group. Nikolay Ryabov for his part stated that he, deputy chairman of the Commission, did not even know the names of those who had worked out the draft whose "main leitmotif is: All Power to the Soviets."

In the opinion of Ryabov, berated by the speaker for having gone to Petrazavodsk, the conference was devoted to the only question: "to put an even greater chasm between the republics and oblasts, and not to permit their dialogue in any circumstances."

The main sensation at the conference, as had probably been expected, was provided by a report read by Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman Yuriy Voronin and compiled by a group of parliament analysts on the political situation in Russia. In reality, as Ryabov said, this document "is a detailed scenario for the president's seizure of power planned for 20 August." According to the scenario, there will be clashes between marchers provoked by the president's "militants" as a result of which (as one of the options) Yeltsin may impose a state of emergency followed by the dissolution of parliament. Notably, according to the unnamed authors of the document, Viktor Barannikov and Andrey Dunayev, "hurt by having been dismissed," may be charged with staging the disturbances. The conference participants' reaction to the possibility of such a terrible coup was dull.

Thus, the real results of the conference are few: the speaker confirmed the inviolability of his political line, his relations with Nikolay Ryabov further soured; besides, heads of soviets approved the idea of founding a new weekly newspaper, IZVESTIA, attached to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, with Leonid Kravchenko—"Ostankino" chairman before the 1991 August putsch—as its chief editor.

Khasbulatov, Rutskoy Address Party, Group Representatives

LD1808210693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By correspondent P. Safranov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Safranov] Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today met with representatives of various political parties and movements to exchange opinions on the situation in the country. Representatives of centrist socialist and communist parties from the opposition and others attended the meeting. The speakers described the decision on the need to change the procurator general and to pass the issue for consideration to the Moscow procurator as irrational. Aleksandr Rutskoy said it was necessary to adopt a law on the responsibility of officials which envisages severe punishment, including imprisonment.

[Rutskoy] This orgy will continue, as our president—who is the czar and the emperor—and his lackey entourage are creating state policy at present.

[Khasbulatov] Democracy is here. Democracy is in the system of representative power. If there is no Supreme Soviet, no matter who is criticizing us, all our most severe critics in journalism will immediately find themselves thrown out from public life.

[Safronov] The parliament chairman said again that it is necessary to set up supervision councils in the media, and he mentioned Professor Denisov, a leader of the Socialist Party of Working People, as a candidate for the post of chairman of the council.

Rumyantsev Appeals to Yeltsin, Khasbulatov on Constitution

MK1808124193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 2

[Article by Oleg Rumyantsev, secretary of the Constitutional Commission, under "Carte Blanche" rubric: "On Creating a Coordinated Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation; Another Appeal to the President and Head of Parliament"]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich and Ruslan Imranovich! In recent days, political disagreements on ways and methods of implementing constitutional reform in Russia have grown more acute. Meanwhile, the time before 17 November, when the next congress of people's deputies will discuss the draft new constitution of the Russian Federation, is drawing dangerously near.

In these conditions I am making a second appeal to you, the two leading personalities in the federal system of authority and the Russian Federation Constitutional Commission with a proposal to adopt a joint decision on a mechanism for working out a single draft constitution for the Russian Federation and submitting it to the November congress.

1. Unfortunately, my previous appeal, made a month ago, has received a negative response from S.A. Filatov, who (instead of the president of the Russian Federation, to whom I had addressed the appeal as my direct superior in the Constitutional Commission) deemed our proposal ill advised and unacceptable. It is difficult to agree with a number of the reasons cited in the response, however. It is hardly a good idea to relate the fate of the constitutional reform, which is an objective necessity, with a subjective wish to resolve all questions involved in the functioning of the Russian state overnight, already this fall. The most complicated political situation is leaving us the possibility of only gradual movement toward a new fundamental law. Yet movement in small but sure steps is preferable to unsupported leaps into the unknown, with sad results.

It is hard to recognize the constitutional conference as an advisory body under the Russian Federation president—and this is precisely the legal status of this assembly—as the best forum for the search for a compromise on problems of Russia's constitutional development. Although the costs involved in the creation of prerequisites for its work have partially been justified, political obstacles still remain. The conference is dominated by activists representing only one political force: the state party of the executive branch and part of the liberal democratic intelligentsia that have affiliated with it. The very venue of the conciliation forum in the Kremlin, under the Russian Federation president, is arousing legitimate rejection both from a considerable part of the centrists and the opposition, which cannot be ignored in the process of looking for ways to reach an accord.

2. We are all seeking to streamline the system of state power bodies and to ensure a legal character of relations between its bodies. But success is only possible in the conditions of continuity and gradualism of the constitutional transition. Consequently, the major guarantee that the new constitution will be adopted in a legal way and accepted by the majority of society is preparation and adoption of a single coordinated draft in a constitutional way.

As of now, we still have two versions of a coordinated draft:

a) the basic propositions that were approved by the 6th congress but reworked by the Constitutional Commission's working group with the participation of plenipotentiary representatives of the Russian Federation components and widely using the provisions of the constitutional conference's draft; on 20 July 1993, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopted a decree: "On Elaboration of the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation," where it proposed to the Constitutional Commission, in line with the decree of 4 June 1993, to continue working precisely on this draft;

b) the presidential version, revised within the framework of the Constitutional Conference on the basis of the original presidential version but substantially close to the provisions of the official version.

A comparison of the two drafts points to their substantial approximation, which is legitimate. I believe that on a whole number of points and in terms of its structure and concept, the draft by the Constitutional Commission is still more interesting, more balanced, and preferable. It is clearly located "at the center," but the version by the conference has moved closer to it. On the margins, there are still the former "presidential" version (the memory of some of its controversial propositions is still alive) on the one hand, and some provisions of the draft law by V.B. Isakov on amendments to the current constitution along with the Slobodkin version, on the other.

3. We must, as soon as possible, find the forms for a final approximation and issue tangible signals to society to the effect that conciliation is not a game, not an intrigue, but reality. To this end, the leaders must, above all, overcome their dislike for one another, which is occasionally apparent, and make a joint forceful decision. Not a rival, for all of Russia loses as a result of confrontation.

The overcoming of substantive differences calls for a thoughtful and profound discussion. Yet, alas, problems arise not so much on the conceptual plane as in a number of political arguments which can be overcome in the conciliation process by taking the issue of the new constitution outside the walls of both the Kremlin and the House of Soviets.

Although the Russian Federation Constitution does not provide for joint promulgation of legislative acts by the president and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, it does not preclude the possibility of a joint political decision being made since the constitutional principle of the division of power presupposes, among other things, interaction of its representatives. An additional legal foundation for a conciliation forum are above all the decisions by the 8th congress—no matter how some people might relate to them—which direct us toward coordinating the main provisions of the draft new constitution of the Russian Federation and the preparation of a single draft.

At present the rational voice of the Russian regions, which are calling on the federal authorities to reach agreement, is making itself heard ever more clearly. This is also evident from the discussion of draft constitutions in a number of oblasts.

Based on this requirement, it is necessary to abandon the practice of using the draft constitution as an instrument of struggle, and call in September a conciliation forum to identify and resolve disagreements on the constitutional reform. The conciliation forum for a start could be formed on a parity basis: 10 people from the Russian Federation president (the constitutional conference) and from the Constitutional Commission/the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. In the event of successful harmonization, plenipotentiary representatives from the regions could be included. This would allow in September joint preparation of a really common, single draft, publishing it in October (possibly with variants on particular points), and submitting it to the congress in November this year.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the constitutional reform could be thwarted if what is presented to the November congress are three conceptually different documents that envision the constitutional system and the form of government in Russia in contrasting ways: the draft by the Constitutional Commission, the draft by the constitutional conference, and amendments by the Supreme Soviet to the current Constitution. Then there can be no possiblity of adopting in the first reading a draft constitution that would be the most suitable for Russia.

In the interests of consistent and far-reaching constitutional reform in Russia I ask you to find the possibility and time for a meeting with the aim to discuss this proposal. I stress: I am not being guided by any personal motives, whatever some "well-wisher" might say. The draft of a possible directive was proposed earlier, but I allow that some serious changes could be introduced into it in the process of a joint search for solution at the working level.

[Dated] 16 August 1993

Statement Issued on Security Council's Rutskoy Decision

LD1808185993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The press service of the Russian Supreme Soviet has issued a statement in connection with the decision of the interdepartmental commission of the Security Council on the struggle against crime and corruption with regard to Procurator General Valentin Stepankov and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. We recall that the commission recommended that the question of Rutskoy's behavior be passed to the Constitutional Court and the question of Stepankov's resignation be placed before the Supreme Soviet. In connection with this the parliamentary press service notes that the question of any activities of the vice president may be examined by the country's supreme legislative bodies only if convincing materials are submitted.

Joint Session Focuses on Military Finances, Belarus Ties

PM1908112593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksey Vorobyev report: "Working Constructively Without Responding to Provocation"]

[Text] Parliamentarians did not react to Boris Yeltsin's speech at the joint session of the chambers on Friday 13 August. Nobody even tried to put the question on the agenda. This silent ignoring of clearly extremist, inflammatory statements unworthy of the state's top official was the Supreme Soviet's best response.

The parliamentarians had more important questions to consider. The session heard information from the Central Bank and the Finance Ministry about progress in financing defense expenditure in the third quarter of 1993. Central Bank representative T. Paramonova reported that in the third quarter treasury income in the form of taxes and dues from juridical and physical entities are unfortunately not being received as intensively as planned.

However, implementing the relevant Supreme Soviet decree, the Central Bank gave the Finance Ministry a credit of 3.2 trillion rubles [R], R2.6 trillion of which the financial department took, having already spent R1.73 trillion. That is, there are credit funds in Finance Ministry accounts at this moment, but the most effective way of using them depends on the department's leadership.

The deputies, however, were primarily interested in why servicemen have not been paid, sometimes for several months. Finance Ministry representative V. Zasorin

tried to answer them. He advised that, whereas before 1991 the Defense Ministry was funded through Gosbank [State Bank] credits, this funding is now effected from sums already received by the treasury in the form of taxes. So far a little over 50 percent of taxes for the first half of 1993 have been collected. He believes that the problems over paying wages arose because the Defense Ministry has been distributing money unevenly to the military districts and categories of troops.

Summarizing the discussion's results, session chairman Yuriy Voronin said that the parliamentary Committee for Defense and Security Questions must control the movement of money within the Defense Ministry much more carefully, while the Finance Ministry should be more active in organizing the collection of budget revenue instead of waiting for it to fall from heaven.

Deputy A.. Korovnikov told the parliamentarians about progress in implementing the Congress of People's Deputies decree "On Protecting the Supreme Organs of Russian Federation State Power." He reported that some documents regulating the activity of the President's Main Protection Administration conflict with existing legislation. The scale of the administration's funding and its numerical strength give rise to doubts.

Members of the Supreme Soviet delegation who visited the state of emergency zone in North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic described the current situation there as extremely grave, requiring urgent measures on the part of the supreme organs of Russian power.

A representative of a Republic of Belarus parliamentary delegation also spoke at the session. He told the Russian deputies that the Russian authorities' latest actions, including the action to exchange bank notes and the termination of Russian oil and gas deliveries to Belarus, threaten many troubles for the republic.

"What have we done wrong?" the Belarusian representative asked with pain and anxiety in his voice. "Belarus has always met all its commitments to Russia and has always treated it with love and respect. Belarus is now Russia's only corridor to the West, it means free highways for exporting Russian oil and gas, it means full observance of the Russian-speaking population's rights and cooperation in all other economic spheres..." Having heard this emotional speech, the parliamentarians decided to put the question of relations with the Republic of Belarus on the session agenda.

At the conclusion of the session Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman V. Agafonov, answering numerous questions from the regions concerning the Supreme Soviet's reaction to Boris Yeltsin's speech, remarked that parliament had decided to confine itself to those provisions which were contained in Ruslan Khasbulatov's television speech. He gave an assurance that the Supreme Soviet leadership would follow the situation in the country closely and take appropriate measures within the framework envisaged by the constitution.

Presidium Considers, Forwards Various Draft Laws

PM1808152393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Parliamentary press service report: "Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium session chaired by Yuriy Voronin took place in the afternoon of 13 August in the House of Soviets.

In accordance with parliamentary procedure, drafts of the following legislative acts were considered and sent for conclusion to standing commissions of Supreme Soviet chambers and committees, the Russian Federation president, and other parties involved in legislative initiative:

—the Russian Federation laws "On Making Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On the Privatization of the Housing Stock in the Russian Federation'"; "On Making Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On State Customs Duty'"; and "On Making Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Security'";

—the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees "On Forming a Commission Under the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet To Control the Sale and Use of Western Group of Forces' Property and Other Russian Property on Federal Republic of Germany Territory;" and "On Organizing the Implementation of Proposals and Critical Comments Made by Participants in the All-Russia Conference on Questions of Providing Social and Legal Protection for Servicemen and Members of Their Families."

The Presidium decree "On the Ratification of Intergovernmental Agreements on State Credits to Governments of States Which Are Former USSR Republics" was adopted.

Supreme Soviet Decree on Withdrawal of Bank Notes

PM1808123393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Supreme Soviet Decree No. 5611-1 "On the Bank of Russia's Decision To Withdraw Treasury and Bank Notes Issued in 1961-1992 From Circulation," signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov and dated Moscow, 6 August 1993]

[Text] Having listened to information from Bank of Russia Chairman V.V. Gerashchenko on the progress of implementing the Bank of Russia's decision to withdraw treasury and bank notes issued between 1961 and 1992 from circulation on Russian Federation territory, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees that:

1. The prescribed mechanism for withdrawing treasury and bank notes issued in 1961-1992 from circulation, specified by the Bank of Russia by agreement with the Russian Federation Government and Russian Federation president, was not properly agreed with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. As a result the constitutional rights of Russian Federation citizens and the Russian Federation's international legal commitments to CIS member-states were infringed. The inadequate organization of preparations for exchanging money notes, for which the Bank of Russia and Russian Federation Government are responsible and which caused the population's grave dissatisfaction with the action carried out, is noted.

2. The Bank of Russia is to effect the withdrawal of treasury and bank notes issued in 1961-1992 from circulation in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Monetary System" and the RSFSR Law "On the Central Bank of the RSFSR (Bank of Russia)," providing citizens with the guarantees prescribed by existing Russian Federation legislation.

3. In accordance with the Russian Federation's international legal commitments to CIS member-states, within one month the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government and Bank of Russia are to hold talks and conclude the appropriate agreements with the CIS member-states which have expressed the desire to use the Russian Federation's unit of currency—the ruble—as a legal means of payment.

4. The Bank of Russia is to present a report to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet before 15 September 1993 on the results of the withdrawal of treasury and bank notes issued in 1961-1992.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Moscow, House of Russian Soviets, 6 August 1993

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Envoys Confer 'Behind Closed Doors' in Irkutsk

MK1808095193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 3

[Larisa Yevtushik report "President's Representatives' Conference; Journalists Denied Access to Conference in Irkutsk"]

[Text] A conference of the president's representatives chaired by Head of the President's Administration Vyacheslav Volkov ended in Irkutsk yesterday. The meeting was held behind closed doors, but, according to one version, it dealt with coordination of actions of all regional representatives during August and September. Like many of the latest steps by the president's team, the agenda of the conference and the way it went were concealed from the public, which gave rise to much guesswork that played into the hands of his opponents. According to one set of guesses, Vyacheslav Volkov was supposed to explain to those gathered how they were to act during the period of "artillery preparation" announced by Yeltsin for August, and later in preparing for early elections.

Also yesterday, another version appeared that the discussions in Irkutsk dealt with fighting corruption. In this case, however, the closed nature of the conference can only attest to the fact that the heads of the administration are worried about corruption precisely among the president's representatives.

Filatov: Economic Reform Yeltsin's 'Hour of Triumph'

LD1808143893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolai Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol August 18 (TASS)—[Russian Federation] President Boris Yeltsin's "hour of triumph" is that despite the severest economic situation in the country he decided to go ahead with economic reform, head of the president's office Sergey Filatov said.

In an interview with the newspaper KAVKAZSKAYA ZDRAVNITSA published in the Russian resort city of Zheleznovodsk where he is on vacation, Filatov said that everyone understood at that time that both Yeltsin and Yegor Gaydar and others were sacrificing themselves.

Asked whether parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Vice President Alexander Rutskoy, Former Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev were guided by their ambitions when they supported Yeltsin during the 1991 August abortive coup, many of whom are now on the other side of the barricades, Filatov stressed that "the reason for the split lies in ambitions as well. In his critical speeches against the president over the past 18 months, Khasbulatov did not disclose his own vision of reform. It is always easier to criticise."

Asked whether Yeltsin and his supporters were carried away by the celebrations of their victory in August 1991, Filatov replied "to some extent they were. The Russian Federation went through qualitative changes at that time and we should have immediately elected a new legislature in that crucial period. This would have become a nation-wide purification from the political filth which had been brought by the members of the state emergency committee (coup leaders)."

Filatov believes Russia needs no criticism for the sake of criticism. Neither does it need ambitious fighting for power. It needs forces which would help reform Russian society and propose constructive decisions. However the "parliament and primarily its leadership have chosen

another way—pressure upon the government, which among other things has led to inflation."

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin Continues Far East Tour

Meets Maritime Kray Officials

LD1908101593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin, the head of the Russian Government, and his first deputy Oleg Soskovets held a working meeting with the Maritime Kray Administration in Vladivostok today. As the Russian Information Agency reports, it has been decided to render state support to five mine-enrichment combines in the kray. Viktor Chernomyrdin also adopted a decision on the financing of seven power-engineering facilities in the Maritime Kray in order that they begin operations this year. It was also decided at the conference to determine specific towns and factories which are due to be subjected to conversion.

Meets Primorye Leaders

LD1908054493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0530 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok August 19 TASS—Russian Government members touring far eastern Russia are working along several lines. Together with local specialists they are finalizing a draft government resolution to normalize the situation in the fields of finance, civil and military industries, transport and communications, fuel and energy, and fisheries.

Sectoral ministers, their deputies and the leaders of enterprises of Primorye Kray (Maritime Territory) are taking part in the joint efforts. Rapprochement has been reported between the Federal Government and local authorities.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Thursday morning went to the city of Spassk Dalny, the Primorye building industrial centre and visited an army unit. He later held a conversation with the territorial administration chiefs and the governor of Primorye, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko.

Later in the afternoon, Chernomyrdin will hold a regional conference with the leaders of enterprises, organisations and labour unions.

Visits Kamchatka Flotilla

PM1908095793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Sergey Avdeyev report: "Premier Met By Well-Briefed People"]

[Text] The itinerary of Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's visit to the Far East is reminiscent of the defense minister's visit. In Kamchatka he visited the missile cruiser Chervona Ukraina, flagship of the Kamchatka Flotilla, aboard which a conference with the command personnel of subunits of all categories of troops of the Northeast Defense Region [Severo-Vostochnyy oboronitelnyy rayon] was actually held. Questions concerning financial and material provision for the troops men were tackled. Incidentally, Viktor Chernomyrdin also opened up Avachinskaya Bukhta and Yelizovskiy Airport for visits by foreigners. And in the Maritime Kray the latest military equipment produced by the Arsenyevskiy Aircraft Construction Association was laid out for the prime minister in order to get the go-ahead for its sale abroad.

But the Far East does not live by ships and missiles alone. In Vladivostok Chernomyrdin's team is expected to come up with solutions to the most pressing, vital problems: How to get through the coming winter when the kray lacks fuel stocks and has nothing to pay for fuel with. If the government does not set a uniform Russia-wide tariff for electricity, the whole of industry will come to a standstill because of excessive prices.

However, the Maritime Kray administration harbors no illusions. So it is planned to set up television cameras in the House of the Soviets meeting hall where Chernomyrdin's meeting with enterprise and trade union leaders will take place and to broadcast the difficult discussion live to the Maritime Kray's inhabitants. "Let the people see what kind of government we have and let the people themselves judge it," an official representative of the kray administration said.

So the prime minister will scarcely have time to take a dip in the Pacific.

Visits Yuzhno-Sakhalin

OW1908120093

[Editorial report] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian at 1905 GMT on 17 August carries a six-minute video report on the arrival of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and a large delegation in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

Correspondent Shagiakhmetov describes the composition of the welcoming party as consisting of leaders of the oblast administration and the soviet, representatives of the Supreme Soviet currently in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on other business, and leaders of oblast departments and social organizations. He says that Chernomyrdin is accompanied by a large delegation of leaders from the central ministries and departments. Video shows the aircraft taxiing and Chernomyrdin and the delegation disembarking and being greeted on the runway.

On the aim of his visit, Chernomyrdin says: "To visit Sakhalin, but first, to acquaint myself with issues

affecting Sakhalin. Basically, to examine the existing problems, to examine all the issues in the context of the Far East. We have just come from Kamchatka, we will spend today and tomorrow on Sakhalin, and then we will go on to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. The basic task is to examine issues that concern Sakhalin and this region specifically."

As for the composition of the delegation accompanying him, Chernomyrdin says: "We have a large delegation. With me is Aleksandr Kharlampiyevich [Zaveryukha], my deputy in charge of agriculture; Shafranik, the minister for fuel and energy; and leaders of the local fuel industry. In essence, I must say that all departments are represented here—some of them are still in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk—such as the first deputies of the Foreign Economic and Finance Ministries, and the first deputy chairman of the central bank. That is, all departments are represented. The delegation is so structured that we can make decisions immediately here on the spot, without postponement or delay. All the issues that can be decided here will be decided, and if there are issues—and there certainly will be, I have already been convinced of that by Kamchatka—to be decided in Moscow, then we will decide them in Moscow. So, the delegation is such that it will first raise the problem, the essence of the problem, and then see which issues have to be taken to Moscow." Video shows Chernomyrdin speaking with Sakhalin Governor Krasnoyarov and with members of the welcoming party.

The correspondent says that Chernomyrdin and his delegation left to visit the Kurils that same day and that it seems that the Russian Government has at last started paying attention to the disastrous situation of the Kuril residents. He notes that a previous delegation consisting of Supreme Soviet deputies has come to the conclusion that separate budgetary provisions for the economic development of the Kurils must be made in the 1994 budget.

An unidentified correspondent for a Japanese television company then asks: "What is the situation in respect to the northern territories?" Chernomyrdin asks: "The northern territories of Sakhalin?" The correspondent says: "No, the Kuril Islands." Chernomyrdin replies: "What have we to examine? We are not examining them. There is nothing to talk about and there nothing to examine. Everything is clear here."

The interview ends as Chernomyrdin and his entourage leave the runway.

Views on Region's Economy Cited

PM1808154793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Far East: Person Must Not Be Left Out. Viktor Chernomyrdin's and Oleg Soskovets' Tour of Sakhalin Oblast and Khabarovsk Kray Continues"]

[Text] **In the Government View**

Viktor Chernomyrdin: No region in the Russian Federation can survive autonomously, be it an oblast, kray, or republic—that is how we have been strcutured for the past 70 years, that is how production forces are spread around our country, particularly in Russia. Those leaders who want sovereignty for their territories are involved in a vain undertaking, distracting people from the cause and stupefying them. And no good will come of it. The collapse of the Soviet Union is a graphic example of that. Well, have the new states gained as a result, have their lives improved? Some people are simply dying to turn back the clock, while others are proposing that they be admitted to Russia.

We adopted a government working program for 1993-1995. Any program should be socially oriented... All economic reform must have a social thrust. My task, the government's task, is to direct the country's economy down this road. So that people in our country are not once again left out of it, so that regions rich in resources do not end up once again with nothing for their pains as it were.

Oleg Soskovets:

It is necessary to give as much autonomy as possible to local organs of authority. In particular, all programs linked with local funding and the social and municipal spheres must be transferred to local authority jurisdiction. The federal center must undertake funding and implementation of wide-ranging programs such as the development of ports and the fleet.

I am not tasked with samping down unrest in Maritime Kray at any cost. I think that this region, particularly after the loss of the Black Sea and Baltic ports, is strategically important for the development of Russia's entire national economy.

I see the government's main task today as being not to take anything away from anyone in order to give it to the people of Maritime Kray, but to create the conditions for the free economic development of the kray.

In the View of the Regions

The people of the Far East are demanding changes in the government's finance and credit policy and the allocation of budget funds for the construction of power generation installations and the reconstruction of the railroad bridge at Khabarovsk, which is of strategic importance not only for the region but also for the whole of Russia.

The policy of privatization needs to be considerably amended. In particular, hasty flotation is one of the reasons for the breakup of the mighty Amur region's construction complex, which has been fragmented, become unmanageable, and lost potential opportunities.

An invariable condition for economic stabilization is the introduction of mandatory regulation at state level of

prices of energy sources, regularization of transport rates, and provision of budget funding for the conversion program and agro-industrial complex development.

Although the Russian Federation Government has earmarked considerable sums for the transportation of freight to northern areas, the money is late in arriving. Whereas it has proved possible to speed up food shipments to northern areas, there is too large a lag in terms of petroleum products. There is little time left until the shipping season comes to an end, and the plans for stockpiling petroleum products for the Nikolayevskna-Amure TETS [heat and electric power station] and power generation installations in Severnaya Gavan and other population centers are not being implemented. It has not proved possible to ensure stable receipt of petroleum products owing to holdups in credit allocation.

Far East wage differentials have become a fiction rather than an incentive since they are part of the prime cost of output and commodities.

The leaders of Far East regions think that the differentials should be paid out of the federal budget, electricity rates standardized throughout Russia, and transportation costs albeit partially reimbursed.

Chechen Army Warns of 'Large-Scale' Conflicts

MK1908094793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report in "NEGA reports" column under "Chechnya" rubric]

[Text] The main headquarters of the Chechen republic armed forces have announced that the movements of Russian military hardware on Russia's borders with Chechnya and what the Chechen military leaders regard as provocative actions by Dagestan authorities in border areas are creating the threat of large-scale interethnic conflicts in the region.

To substantiate its suspicions, Chechnya's military department cited the following facts: At the beginning of the week, a group of unidentified men blew up a bridge across the river Aksay which links the Chechen republic with Dagestan; the corpse of a Dagestan woman was "planted" on the territory of Chechnya; and unidentified agitators are collecting signatures in support of closing the border with Chechnya.

Chechnya's military intelligence, whose data are cited in the statement by the republic's armed forces main headquarters, also notes apparently increased activity with regard to the arming of Cossack military groups in Stavropolye, Terek, and North Ossetia. The Chechen military intelligence service points out that Russian armed formations located on territories neighboring Chechnya have also approached the republic's borders. During this week, over 2,000 men from a Russian special purpose division have moved toward Chechnya from Dagestan, while along the Stavropolye direction, Russian regular army camps are being set up on traditional pasture lands. Aircraft with personnel and materiel are arriving at a military airfield near Kurskoye village (Stavropol Kray).

The main headquarters of the Chechen armed forces believes that before the end of this year, the Russian leadership, with the assistance of special services, will make an attempt to overthrow the current legitimate government of the Chechen republic. The Chechen military think that a certain role in the anticipated events will be assigned to the Cossacks.

In a memorandum to the Chechen president, the forensic medicine department of the Chechen armed forces main headquarters suggests that Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov is under the influence of a poisonous substance.

NEGA's correspondent learned that Chechen medical experts maintain, without specifying the chemical formula of the poison and without conducting a careful investigation of the patient in question, that the poison is producing a destructive effect on the liver. This, in their opinion, is corroborated by, among other things, Khasbulatov's appearance and the character of the parliament speaker's recent spontaneous afflictions. The correspondent was told in Groznyy that the memorandum, prepared for President Dudayev, "was dictated not so much by concern for the health of a well-known person as simply to state a fact."

Buryat Leader: New Decision To Save Constitution

LD1908092993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan Ude, August 19 (TASS)—The decision of the Council of Heads of Republics within the Russian Federation on the draft constitution is a "real way out of the impasse into which the constitutional process has actually been driven", according to Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Buryat Republic Leonid Potapov.

Leonid Potapov, a participant in the meeting with President Yeltsin in Petrozavodsk, was speaking at a news conference devoted to the results of that meeting in the capital of Buryatiya.

Potapov stressed that the final version of the constitution must be initialled by all subjects of the Russian Federation and then considered by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and the Congress of People's Deputies.

Regional Leaders Ask For 'Federation Council'

PM1808105393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Mikhail Narolin, head of Lipetsk Oblast Administration, by Viktor Petrovskiy; place and date not given; published under "Regional Politics" rubric: "Mikhail Narolin: Let Us Discuss a Single Draft"]

[Text] What was the joint session of leaders of Russian Federation republics and interregional associations held Friday 13 August in Petrozavodsk—a political show organized by the president in order to somehow stimulate the plodding constitutional process, or something more serious?

We put this question to Mikhail Narolin, head of Lipetsk Oblast Administration, who participated directly in the session.

[Narolin] No, it was a serious and constructive discussion of two important questions: the mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty, and the procedure for discussing the draft fundamental law. It is very important that for the first time we leaders of regional associations discussed these basic questions on equal terms with republic leaders.

All seven representatives from the regions spoke, saying that the regions must take an equal part with the republics in resolving fundamental Federation Treaty questions. It must be said that the republic leaders agreed with this.

[Petrovskiy] Have these amendments and additions from the regions now been added to the draft law on the mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty?

[Narolin] A working group of Federation components has been set up to make the appropriate amendments and additions.

[Petrovskiy] The second question, as you said, was the progress of the constitutional process. What did you achieve in this area?

[Narolin] In the very first point of the decision adopted in Petrozavodsk we formulated a principle whose absence is the reason why the constitutional process has been marking time to this day... The implementation of the Federation Treaty and the carrying out of constitutional reforms are a single process." Proceeding from this fundamental principle, we resolved to hold a joint session of the Constitutional Conference and Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies Constitutional Commission in mid-September this year.

[Petrovskiy] In that case it turns out that the marathon Russia-wide discussion of the Constitutional Conference and Constitutional Commission drafts that was to have begun must now be shelved until a single draft is elaborated from the proposed two?

[Narolin] I think that this follows on from our decisions. At any rate, we will no longer be studying incompatible drafts back home.

[Petrovskiy] Now, please, about the Federation Council [Sovet Federatsii]. What will this organ be—a kind of legitimate organ of power from below, as the president put it, or something else?

[Narolin] I will simply quote the second point of the decision that we adopted, and what it is will become clear: "The Russian Federation president is advised to form a Federation Council from leaders of the executive and representative branches of Russian Federation components as a consultative organ to consider questions of economic, political, state, and federal organization." So far the talk has been of a consultative organ. As to what will happen later, we will see.

Chelyabinsk 'Republic' 'Threatening To Split'

PM1908115193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 1

[Sergey Smirnov report: "I'm No Churl"]

[Text] For the time being the South Ural (Chelyabinsk) Republic only exists on paper. Local wits, however, have already thought up a new name for it—the Chelyabinsk Ural Republic [ChUR] [vernacular means "hands off me!"]. And consequently they are proposing that the local population be called "churls." Meanwhile the situation in the oblast is really quite amusing: Administration head Vadim Solovyev, who has been appointed president, is issuing one set of edicts while Petr Sumin, who was declared administration head after the elections held on the initiative of the soviets, is issuing another.

The Oblast Soviet is adopting a decision "demanding that administration head P.I. Sumin implements decisive measures and actions to govern the oblast." The soviet's decision has been published in the local newspaper alongside a protest from Solovyev's administration, so enterprise directors no longer know who to make obeisance to. So far the directors of three administrations—two cities and one rayon—have expressed their loyalty to Petr Ivanovich. So the ChUR, which has not even come into being, is already threatening to split into autonomous formations.

Karelia's Economic Situation 'Not All Gloom'

PM1908091593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By B. Ternoushko and S. Petrunichev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Ternoushko over video of Yeltsin disembarking from aircraft] If nothing else, the gathering of major political figures brought Petrozavodsk Airport to life for a couple of days. For several months now the airways here have been closed to flights to regions

accessible only by aircraft. Production at Karelia's main timber complex continues to decline. Workers at the oldest plant producing Neva tractors are on compulsory leave. And the Kostomuksha Mineral Enriching Combine is some 5 million rubles in debt to power workers alone.

But it is not all gloom on the republic's economic front. The Petrozavodsk Shipyard has started up production of supermodern, European-class ships. By the end of the year freight traffic will be running on the Kudomar-Kochkoma mainline railroad. It will carry millions of tonnes of freight and will, in fact, become a new and powerful window on Europe for Russia. Nor is there any letup in the construction of the trans-Scandinavian highway, or of communications facilities. New opportunities in the economy are emerging, and specific grain programs are being implemented. [passage omitted]

Su-27 Production at Komsomolsk Plant at 'Minimal Levels'

PM1808161793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed, untitled report]

[Text] The threat of dismissal or forced retraining hangs over 3,000 workers and employees at an aviation production association in Komsomolsk-na-Amure.

Work on the main product—Su-27 fighters—has already reached minimal levels. In its search for a way out of the situation the association is gearing itself to assimilating production of civil airliners and expanding production of consumer goods.

International Affairs

Defense Ministry Clarifies Statement on Control of Missiles

LD1808204593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry made a statement today, 18 August. The statement denies the assertions by some of the mass media on the content of an interview that Ivan Bizhan, deputy head of our military department, granted to the BBC news service. According to the BBC version, the Ukrainian military leader reported the possibility of Ukraine blocking Moscow's control over intercontinental ballistic missiles on Ukrainian territory and that it would gain possession of codes for launching these missiles in the near future. The press service of the ministry is authorized to state that General Bizhan did not give such information to the BBC correspondent, although the correspondent did pose a question of such content. However, he received the reply that it is possible that Ukraine may not allow the employment of strategic nuclear missiles deployed on its territory. And as far as elaborating or gaining possession of codes is concerned, this contradicts Ukraine's state policy regarding nuclear weapons. Such work is not being conducted.

NATO Admiral Arrives in Kiev, Meets Defense Minister

WS1808140293 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] U.S. Navy Admiral Paul Miller, commander in chief of NATO Allied Forces, has arrived in Kiev. At this moment, he is holding an official conference with Ukrainian Minister of Defense Kostyantyn Morozov. Before this, Paul Miller laid flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Park of Glory. The program of the visit envisions talks with members of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and State Security and a lecture delivered by Admiral Miller at the Ukrainian Armed Forces Academy.

Discusses Military Cooperation

WS1908093893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Report by Marat Pogorelov]

[Text] The schedule of the visit [by Paul Miller, commander in chief of NATO Allied Armed Forces] circulated among the reporters was altered, and the talks at the Defense Ministry started 40 minutes earlier. However, Kostyantyn Morozov and Paul David Miller who were conferring behind closed doors, took a break and answered the reporters' questions.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Pogorelov] Maybe it was not that bad that there was a change in the schedule. You have managed to discuss certain issues and you probably have something to say.

[Miller, in English with superimposed Ukrainian translation] This was an informal working visit. I have managed to visit Odessa and Kiev. While in Odessa, I had the opportunity to see the battleships belonging to the Ukrainian military. I have come here to acquaint myself with the situation and to discuss the next steps to be made for bringing our stances closer and developing our cooperation.

[Pogorelov] Are you referring to the memorandum?

[Miller] A bilateral memorandum on cooperation in the military field was signed in Washington by the United States Department of Defense and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. We are working on the practical implementation of the memorandum. In the nearest future, a Ukrainian Navy ship may participate in military exercises alongside NATO and U.S. ships.

[Pogorelov] Can Minister Morozov add anything to this?

[Morozov] The visit is a continuation of our contacts whose basis was laid by signing the memorandum. The memorandum stipulates contacts among all the military services, including the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. The fact of Admiral Miller's presence here in Ukraine on an official visit is yet another proof that Ukraine is a naval power and that we have common tasks and common intentions with regard to developing our Navy by using the U.S. experience. I believe that we will have a chance to use the experience of developed states and NATO while reshaping our Armed Forces.

[Miller] I hoisted this national flag in Norfolk and it was placed near the flags of NATO states. We have brought this Ukrainian flag from Norfolk. [end recording]

The program of the second day of the visit includes Paul David Miller's lecture at the Military Academy.

German Defense Minister Discusses Cooperation, Ends Visit

LD1808145893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1426 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 18 TASS—German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe has completed his three-day official visit to Ukraine on Wednesday, during which there were many important meetings and talks.

During talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and talks at the Ukrainian Defence and Foreign Ministries and visits to military units the sides invariably pointed out the importance of cooperation between the two countries in the military field.

The sides pointed out that both Germany and Ukraine have identical or very close approaches to the solution of problems pertaining to the elimination of nuclear weapons on the planet. On the same day the German delegation left Kiev for Kazakhstan.

Morozov Views Visits by Germany's Ruehe, Other Western Officials

LD1808192793 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 18 Aug 93

["Interview With Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov by UNIAR Correspondent Oksana Kyryan"—UNIAR headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] [Kyryan] Kostyantyn Petrovych, visits to Ukraine by influential military figures from the West and the United States have recently become more frequent. Thus, Les Aspin, U.S. secretary of defense; Jacques Lanxade, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of France; and Volker Ruehe, German defense minister, have recently visited our state. If these visits are not an attempt to pressure Ukraine to ratify the START I Treaty as soon as possible, then what, in your opinion, has caused such an interest in Ukraine?

[Morozov] These are truly not chance visits, for they all take place in accordance with prior accords. I am very satisfied that, as you said, the number of such visits has recently been increasing. In this way we are implementing our concept, which declared that Ukraine is a state open to integration into European structures, to contacts with foreign armed forces, to the establishment of good-neighborly relations with all countries with which Ukraine bears joint responsibility for guarantees of the security of neighbors and itself. The visits which you mentioned were, in my view, fruitful. They were conducted at the invitation of the Ukraine defense minister, which is different in essence from personal invitations. We are planning very important visits for the future. I would like to note that everyone who has paid an official visit to Ukraine has an attitude of great respect for Ukraine, and this shows that Ukraine is acquiring respect in Europe and in the world.

[Kyryan] From what angle do you count NATO countries' attitude to Ukraine as positive?

[Morozov] Certain reservations regarding our young state existed in the world for some time after Ukraine declared its Act of Independence, because hardly anyone knew about the new state that had appeared on the world map. Two years have now passed since that time, and both Europe and the world have been convinced that Ukraine is conducting a consistent policy of peace. Ukraine has integrated into all contemporary processes, and has become an active member of the Helsinki process; the president of Ukraine has signed the charter for a new Europe, and our state has confirmed its succession from the former USSR regarding all of the most important international obligations. These practical steps, which the foreign political department, the president of Ukraine, and the government demonstrate in their activity, have contributed to an opinion forming in the world about Ukraine as a state that is responsible for the directions of its foreign policy activity, and that endeavors to create conditions for its security in a way that does not impede the security of other states.

[Kyryan] In the course of his official visit, Germany's Defense Minister Mr. Volker Ruehe had an opportunity to visit Ukrainian military units. Did the German minister point out any positive sides of the Ukrainian Army which would be worth introducing in the Bundeswehr, and what was his general impression of the Ukrainian Army?

[Morozov] The Bundeswehr is a very experienced organization which has its history and traditions. I observed how the issue of resubordinating the former National People's Army of East Germany and involving those troops in the Bundeswehr was resolved in an efficient, humane, and well-organized manner. Something like this was happening in Ukraine when we took the former Soviet Army group as a basis for building our armed forces. Of course, we can exchange experiences, but there are problems so different that they cannot be compared. During his familiarization with military units, which you have mentioned, Mr. Ruehe expressed his satisfaction with the way the educational process was organized; he had positive impressions of military discipline and the fulfillment of the military exercises and tasks which were demonstrated to him. Proceeding from this, I conclude that the Army of Ukraine is capable of showing its best. By the way, this was noted not only by Minister Ruehe but also by other influential figures of Europe's military structures who had an opportunity to visit our military units.

Kuchma, Morozov Differ Over Leasing Sevastopol

PM1808152793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 4

[Grigoriy Nesmyanovich report: "Premier For, Minister Against"]

[Text] Kiev—Various political forces in Ukraine are suggesting their own ways of settling the conflict over the Black Sea Fleet.

Ahead of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' meeting and another discussion on the future of the Black Sea Fleet it is quite hard to make any forecasts. Too many hidden currents have come to light of late not only in the bays around Sevastopol, but also along the banks of the Dnieper and the Moscow River.

It is indisputably the presidents that are deciding the fleet's future at the moment. But it cannot be denied that other key figures in the two states are becoming more and more actively involved in this process. For instance, emotion has not yet died down in Ukraine over Prime

Minister Leonid Kuchma's statement regarding the possibility of leasing the Black Sea Fleet's main base—Sevastopol—to Russia.

Nor is Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, Ukraine's defense minister, hiding his ideas on this matter. He believes that under no circumstances should the leasing of Ukrainian territory to Russia be agreed to. And if the Russian side demands that as the price for dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, Morozov thinks that the question of withdrawing the entire Black Sea Fleet from Ukraine will be raised.

Well, what options for the Black Sea Fleet's existence are people in Kiev considering? No one here wants a unified fleet under a unified command since official Ukraine, not counting the grave losses, wants to put as much distance as possible between itself and Russia in foreign and military policy.

Situation in Black Sea Fleet Viewed

AU1808125493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Aug 93 p 3

[Oleksandr Pilat report: "It Is Raining in Sevastopol"]

[Text] When we telephoned the Sevastopol State Administration and asked what was new in the city, the answer was: "It is raining."

This is really news for Sevastopol, because after several months of heat the sky was at long last overcast and warm summer rain started falling.

Otherwise, there is no special news. Except that... The residents of Sevastopol were relieved after the so-called Russian People's Council of Sevastopol decided to hold rallies and "popular viches" [assemblies] on a monthly and not on a weekly basis.

At the meeting of the Black Sea Fleet Military Council, Black Sea Fleet commander Admiral Eduard Baltin stated that attempts by various parties and movements to draw the personnel into the political struggle that has evolved around the status of the Black Sea Fleet is one of the factors negatively affecting military discipline. The main thing now, emphasized the admiral, is to avoid the stratification of the personnel in regards to this and to preserve the fleet as a single, monolithic and combat-ready entity.

Quite recently, the Ukrainian Air Defense regiment commanded by Colonel Serhiy Netsvetayev successfully completed training flights. The crews worked out communications before assuming combat duty in guarding Ukraine's airspace boundaries. During the flights, communication was maintained between the pilots and units and ships of Ukraine's Naval Forces. At the Black Sea Fleet aircraft and equipment base under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Arkadiy Mochar, 70 percent of the personnel swore allegiance to the people of Ukraine, 20 percent—to the people of Russia, and the rest to the CIS. As things stand now, increasing numbers of servicemen give preference to the state of which they are residents. Finally, the ordeal of the crew of the "Hetman Sahaydachnyy" patrol combatant of the Ukrainian Naval Forces has ended. It has occupied a berth near the 13th mooring line and is getting electricity and water from ashore.

Here is a different type of news. In accordance with the directive by the Black Sea Fleet chief of staff, 142 Kiev Naval Institute cadets arrived in Sevastopol for training. However, according to leader of Group Captain 3d Rank Ivan Horyn, as reported by the newspaper FLOT UKRAYINY [The Ukrainian Fleet], 62 of the cadets were not allowed to undergo training at ships of the Donuzlavska Division. It is feared that the same may happen in the case of the remaining 80 cadets. Observers believe that in this situation the commander of the Black Sea Fleet should say something.

...It is raining in Sevastopol. All enterprises are operating according to schedule and the sailors of Ukraine's Naval Forces and the Black Sea Fleet continue their service. Everything will be fine if various pro-Russian parties and movements of Sevastopol stop fanning political passions.

Zlenko Hails Pakistani Stance on Sevastopol

WS1908135893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko received Pakistani Permanent Representative to the UN Jamshed Marker on 18 August. The Ukrainian side expressed its sincere gratitude for the principled stance he took during the UN discussion of the issue of the so-called status of Sevastopol. In the course of the talk conducted in the atmosphere of mutual understanding, the sides exchanged opinions with regard to the issues included on the agenda of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, bilateral Ukrainian- Pakistani relations, and other problems of mutual interest.

Black Sea Fleet Plans Military Exercise

MK1908093593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] "The Black Sea Fleet is battle-worthy as before, the personnel are successfully coping with their duties and are fulfilling the tasks they have been entrusted with," Major General Vladimir Romanenko, chief of the Black Sea Fleet shore-based forces, told a press conference in Sevastopol on the evening of 17 August. The general also stated that a major combined tactical exercise using live ammunition will be conducted with the Black Sea Fleet on 19 August. The exercise is to involve missile and artillery forces, coastal defense forces, combat infantry subunits, tanks, and air defense artillery. This exercise will for the first time use the new

shore-based, self-propelled artillery system "Bereg" and the latest weaponry. Admiral Eduard Baltin, the Black Sea Fleet commander, will be present during the exercise.

Kravchuk Receives Yeltsin's Independence Day Message

LD1808222593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk has received a message from Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. In it he sincerely greets the people of Ukraine on the occasion of the national festival, Independence Day [24 August]. The message expresses certainty that the further development of the mutual course toward strengthening friendly partnership relations on equal terms between our states will be of the highest priority in mutual state policy. This certainty, the greeting emphasizes, is founded on traditions tested over the ages, history, culture, and religion of the two brotherly peoples. Boris Yeltsin wishes the people of Ukraine prosperity and success in all spheres of life.

Talks on Black Sea Economic Cooperation Viewed

LD1808220393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] (Celik Kurdoglu), secretary general of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council, paid a business visit to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine today. As is known, this regional community, set up on the initiative of Turkey, unites the efforts of a number of countries geared at implementing multilateral investment projects, tackling other topical issues of a regional nature.

In the course of today's negotiations the sides discussed ways of developing and deepening trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation. In particular, they discussed the elaboration of a number of draft projects, involvement and legal protection of investments, mutually advantageous exchange of the latest industrial technologies, above all in agricultural production, preservation, and processing.

Protocol Agreement Signed With Algerian Geological Agency

AU1708130893 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 14 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Geologists Look for a Common Language"]

[Text] A few days ago, Ukraine's State Committee for Geology received an official delegation of the Algerian National Agency for Geological and Mining Exploration Work headed by Dr. Belkacem Touari, its general director. This visit was a result of the relations envisaged in the programs of the visit to Algeria, in April 1993, by the Ukrainian governmental delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. Lipatov and of the return visit to Ukraine, in June 1993, by the Algerian governmental delegation headed by Mr. M. Mekraoui, delegate minister for questions of trade subordinated to the minister of the economy.

As a result of the visit, a protocol agreement was signed between Ukraine's State Committee for Geology and the Algerian National Agency for Geological and Mining Exploration Work.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Maldives

WS1808140793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Ukraine has established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Maldives. The protocol has been signed by Ukraine's Permanent Representative at the UN Viktor Batyuk and Ahmed Rir, charge d'affaires of the Republic of Maldives' permanent representative at the UN. The protocol reads: Striving for the development of relations based on friendship and cooperation, the sides have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of embassies beginning with the day of signing the protocol. The sides have agreed to develop relations on the basis of UN Charter principles.

National Affairs

Kuchma Chairs Meeting on Agricultural Sales, Prices

LD1808220393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] On 18 August a final plenary session on issues of the agroindustrial complex was held at the Kiev state administration. It was chaired by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. Issues of fulfilling the state order for the sales of grain, transportation of feed, and processing of raw fruit, as well as the preparation of the fields to be sown by winter crops, were considered. Issues of prices for oil products and payments for them and also new prices for grain were touched upon at the session. Leonid Kuchma underlined that Russia is adhering to the schedule for oil supplies to Ukraine. At present the volume of these deliveries amounts to 40,000 tons per day. By the end of the month it will be tripled. The prime minister said it was important for Ukraine to adhere to the schedule of payments for the oil products. Speaking about new prices for grain, Leonid Kuchma underlined that on 25-27 August this year a regular session of the Supreme Council is to be convened that will consider the issue of raising prices for grain.

Assesses Results of Visit to Rural Areas

WS1808130693 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Report by unidentified radio correspondent]

[Text] The government policy toward rural areas has started to yield dividends. This has been pointed out at a regional conference of agroindustrial branches that has marked the completion of Prime Minister Kuchma's two-day visit to Dnepropetrovsk and Khmelnytskyy Oblasts. Speaking to reporters, the prime minister pointed out that notwithstanding shortages of fuel and spare parts and disrupted economic ties, harvesting of spring crops has been virtually completed in Ukraine. While summing up the results of the visit, Leonid Kuchma said.

[Begin Kuchma recording, in Russian] These visits build up my desire to work, because in my opinion, special people live in the country—they always smile while meeting guests. There are the same hardships in the country as in the town. Many things simply get lost somewhere on the way here. However, the harvest of spring crops has been in fact gathered in Ukraine. This means that Ukraine will have bread. The most important thing is that we will not have to go and beg Americans and Frenchmen for short-term loans. These loans are given for a period of one year. We must pay interest and return the loan in a year. I dream of transferring the atmosphere of the country to the town by means of the mass media. The town is still drowsy, its residents still cherish groundless hopes, while people in the country work from morning until night. Concealed unemployment in cities is reaching 50 percent, while we have seen here how much more equipment the country needs. We have been shown samples of foreign equipment, and I felt ashamed. I am sure that we can produce much better machines than those currently working in the fields. I am addressing industrialists: We will use economic pressure for making our tremendous economic potential, including the potential of the military industrial complex, work for the production of advanced equipment for agriculture. The equipment currently used for harvesting causes losses of 20 to 30 percent of crops. Our combines were designed for crops of 30 quintals per hectare. The same can be said with regard to corn and sugar beet.

The people here are optimistic, although the economic situation is dramatic, and continues deteriorating. From the point of view of power resources there will be at least two more downs. However, seeing this desire to work, I believe that [words indistinct].

[Switches to Ukrainian] I am turning to the workers of all the oblasts of our Ukraine with words of thankfulness. Together, we will resolve all the problems. I want to wish accord to all the people in Ukraine. This is the main point today if we want to overcome all the hardships. May God help us to avoid opposition that is currently growing. We must ask all the political parties to sit down at tables—not at the kind of roundtables that we have recently seen, and negotiate. People must be told the truth, because what is being said at the roundtables is a lie. While addressing the people one must have a feeling of responsibility and a bit of wisdom. [end recording]

Odessa Grain Harvest Detailed

PM1808133793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Leonid Kapelyushnyy report: "Odessa Already Has Grain. Will It Have Any Bread?"]

[Excerpt] Odessa—The pessimistic forecasts have not been borne out. The grain farmers of Odessa Oblast have managed to gather in the 1993 harvest. There were no spares, the fuel situation was dramatic—a tonne of solar oil cost more than 1 million rubles, and even then there was only just enough—and labor discipline on the neo-kolkhozes was no better than it had been on ordinary kolkhozes, but nonetheless they gathered in the harvest. The grain farmers' hopes have been crowned with 2,636,000 tonnes of grain.

Divide this figure by 760,000—the number of hectares sown to grain in the oblast—and you get the average yield. If you divide it you will see that, had this been the old days, the kolkhoz chairmen and the oblast leaders could have been hoping to receive orders and medals....

Some 650,000 tonnes of grain have already been sold to the state—state orders have thus been more than 60-percent fulfilled. Incidentally, Odessa—together with Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Kirovograd, and Kherson Oblasts—is among the leading five grain growers and sells more than 1,000 tonnes of grain under state orders. Yet the Ministry of Agriculture is expressing a certain amount of dissatisfaction with the fact that the "thousanders" are selling "less than they could" and grain is building up on the threshing floors. An exception is Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, where the plan indicator has been 82-percent fulfilled. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister Suggests New Planning, Budget Concepts

LD1908001293 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev—On 18 August a joint collegium of the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance considered the concept of the plan and budget of Ukraine for 1994. This is already the second version of the concept, the first one was based on a centralized system of a state plan and state order. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk delivered a report. He offered a principally new scheme of quarterly planning. He also forwarded an idea to form the plan and budget simultaneously beginning in 1994, estimating them in Ukrainian karbovantsi and dollars and proceeding from the world prices for power sources. Previously, plans and budgets were based on preliminary applications. This allowed them to lay down projects which were not supported by real financial sources. Viktor Pynzenyk offered to work out the plan and budget with regard to the trends in the monetary policy that determines the inflation rates. He also expounded the principle of priorities at various levels according to which only those

priority structural changes are included in the plan and budget which are backed up financially. A stabilization financial reserve is envisaged in the budget which is not allowed to be used to finance undertakings not included in the plan. The new scheme provides for stepping up the role of regions' independence through displacement of a part of the consolidated budget at the regional level. Anatoliy Balyuk, representative of the Ministry of Economy, agreeing with the new scheme by Viktor Pynzenyk, at the same time said the following to a UNIAN correspondent: "At present no one knows how to continue planning in karbovantsi under conditions of their total devaluation. All calculations should be made anew."

Comments on Inflation, Privatization

WS1908104293 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Today's meeting of Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk with the staff of the Kiev Arsenal Plant was focused on the realization of the economic reforms in Ukraine. The situation that has developed in the national economy was characterized. Viktor Pynzenyk dwelt on issues of financial policy. He emphasized that the lack of coordination between the National Bank and the government triggered the inflation of karbovanets. The National Bank put into circulation a huge amount of money, without government permission. In the deputy prime minister's words, this had a devastating effect on the economy. The situation is exacerbated also due to the severance of economic relations with Russia. In addition, Ukraine is currently forced to import more goods than it exports. In Viktor Pynzenyk's opinion, privatization in Ukraine should be carried out as soon as possible. Staffs should become proprietors of their enterprises. The deputy prime minister responded to questions from the arsenal workers.

Kravchuk Appoints New Minister

LD1808190893 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 17 Aug—The Ukrainian president has issued a decree noting that Vilen Semenyuk is to be appointed Minister of Power Engineering and Electrification, replacing Anatoliy Hrytsenko who has been relieved of his duties pending his retirement.

Rukh Calls For Economic Reforms, Elections

WS1808140493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The People's Rukh has published a statement on the occasion of the second anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The statement points out that our state has failed to take advantage of all the opportunities to build a society whose citizens would feel free, secure, and protected. Rukh views the reasons for this situation as the inefficiency of all the branches of state administration. The authors of the statement believe that the solution to the crisis lies in immediate economic reforms, elections of administrative bodies on the basis of a new law, and the unity of democratic forces.

Social Democrats Protest Actions of UNA-UNSO

LD1808224693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] On 18 August the council of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine appealed to Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk in an open letter. The letter draws attention to the activities of the organization Ukrainian National Assembly - Ukrainian National Self-Defence [UNA-UNSO]. Repeated provocative actions, the appeal stresses, both on the territory of Ukraine and participation in armed conflicts beyond its borders, lead to the growth of tensions in society and the creation of additional negative factors in our state's foreign policy. The Social Democrats demand that concrete actions be taken to ban the activities of this organization. Besides, they believe that the road of Ukrainian statehood lies through the achievement of peace and accord, through a free economy, an open society, and the well-being of all its citizens.

Association Issues Appeal for Conference of Nationalist Groups

AU1708123493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Yet Another Front?"]

[Text] The political association "Ukraine's State Independence" has issued an appeal concerning the formation of the Ukrainian National Front [UNF].

In the appeal, the association turned to the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party, Ukraine's National Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka], and other related organizations. Having realized the existence of a threat to the state, reads the statement, we must hold an organizational leadership conference and formulate the main points of a joint ideological platform to set a date for a UNF constituent meeting and form a committee to organize the meeting.

Cossacks To Assist in Protecting State Borders

WS1808141293 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] From now on, Ukrainian cossacks will be able to participate in the protection of the Ukrainian state borders. According to a report by the Ukrainian Border Troops press service, this opportunity has appeared as a result of a special agreement signed by Viktor Banin, first deputy chief of the State Border Committee, and the Ukrainian Cossack Chief Volodymyr Mulyava. The agreement stipulates that during 1993 and 1994, regional

cossack chiefs will form cossack detachments for assisting the protection of state borders. Cossacks will serve along with border guards at the airports, railways, and bus terminals.

ASW Ship Being Completed for Navy

PM1808142793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Pilipchuk report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "'Leninskaya Kuznitsa' Forging Ships for Ukrainian Navy"]

[Text] The Kiev plant known as "Leninskaya Kuznitsa" is completing the construction of a small ASW ship, the Lutsk, for the Ukrainian Navy.

Before the Lutsk came the command ship Slavutich, the patrol combatant Hetman Sahaydachnyy, and the small amphibious warfare ship Donetsk. There are some facts indicating that the construction of ships for the Ukrainian Navy is continuing in Kiev, Kerch, and Nikolayev shipyards. It is most likely that these are ships that when begun, were to be built for the USSR Navy.

AES Produced One-Third of Electricity in Jul

AU1808080593 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 14 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "AES's in July"]

[Text] In July, five of Ukraine's AES [Atomic Electric Power Plants] generated 5,579,400,000 kilowatt-hours of electric energy, accounting for one-third of all the electric energy produced in our country. This figure could be higher. However, it must be taken into account that, during this period, three of 14 atomic plants power units were undergoing scheduled repairs. There were also six cases of unscheduled outages and ten cases of decreases in capacity. The AES stoppages did not affect the safety of their operation. In July, the radiation situation at the AES's and in adjacent areas remained unchanged.

Belarus

Shushkevich, Yeltsin To Discuss CIS, Fuel Deliveries

WS1908103093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich will meet today in Moscow. They are supposed to discuss the 7 September meeting of the heads of the CIS states and the 28 August meeting of the heads of the CIS governments, in addition to some aspects of Belarusian-Russian relations chiefly concerning the Russian ruble cash in Belarus and Russian gas and oil deliveries.

Kebich To Participate in Talks

WS1908103893 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] INTERFAX has learned from reliable sources close to the Belarusian Government in Minsk that Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich is going to interrupt his vacation in Crimea and participate in the meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich in Moscow.

'Emergency' Situation in Petroleum Supplies Noted

LD1908101293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] The situation regarding the availability of petroleum products in Belarus was described as an emergency one by Vladimir Prokapchuk, one of the leaders of the state petrochemical committee. According to Prokapchuk, for two months in succession the volume of oil supplies from Russia has been at 60 percent of what is required. All reserves of petroleum products have been utilized. Prokapchuk noted that despite government treaties, not a single tonne of oil has been received from Bashkiria or Tatarstan. Prokapchuk said that if Russian suspends oil supplies to Belarus, the republic's economy will not survive.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Neutrality

MK1808134593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No.34, 22 Aug 93 (signed to press 17 Aug 93) p A10

[Interview with Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy, by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI's own correspondent in Minsk, Larisa Sayenko: "Defense Minister Dreams Of Neutrality"—date not given]

[Text] A full-blown militarized state with the highest concentration of servicemen in Europe and a nuclear capability, Belarus is the first and the only country in the world that has voluntarily given up the nuclear stick and embraced a course toward neutrality and a nuclear-free status. So far, neither Ukraine nor Kazakhstan have followed its example. Some people are trying to attribute Belarus's stance to its dependence on Russia and the peculiarities of the nation's mentality—every fourth Belarussian was killed in the last war. Belarussian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy spoke with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI's own correspondent in Minsk, Larisa Sayenko.

[Sayenko] Pavel Pavlovich, do you regret that the Republic of Belarus has given up the nuclear argument?

[Kozlovskiy] I do not venture to assess Ukraine's or Kazakhstan's policies, but I am confident that for Belarus it has been a reasonable and far-sighted step to cede the right to be a nuclear power to Russia. What is the use of bargaining if the state is unable even physically to sustain the nuclear arsenal. I think that we will come to a nuclear-free status not by the year 2000, as prescribed by the Lisbon protocol, but much earlier—by 1996. A nuclear-free status means stability.

[Sayenko] Less than a year has passed since the parliament adopted a course toward neutrality and a nuclear-free status, but here you are, the same parliament passes a decision on Belarus' joining the CIS's collective security system, in effect a new military-political bloc. Don't you see any contradiction here?

[Kozlovskiy] Thinking that the West is concerned about Belarus's joining the CIS's collective security system would be a mistake. I have been in constant consultations with NATO's military ministers. What they are afraid of is a different thing: they are afraid of the country's collapse, unpredictability, the emergence of a number of unstable militarized states from the former USSR. Given this, the collective security system, and an exclusively defensive one at that, means stability.

On the other hand, I am deeply convinced that at this stage of setting up a national army, a collective security system is doubly important. Being a monopolist in precision military electronics production, Belarus does not produce a single finished weapon—well, forget about weapons—even ordinary storage cells, without which the army is unable to fight! For our republic, the isolation of its armed forces would prove tragic...

[Sayenko] Isn't Belarus' joining the CIS collective security system fraught with the possibility that the republic may be drawn into armed conflicts? Last spring, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich said: "We should not make a secret of our arms deliveries to Tajikistan."

[Kozlovskiy] Yes, Tajikistan evokes most painful apprehensions. But Belarus has its own stance in the defense alliance taking into account our military doctrine, which has set forth our desire for neutrality and a nuclear-free status. One of our conditions is as follows: any involvement in armed conflicts in other allied states may take

place only by decision of our parliament. We can conduct talks with the Russian Federation on the collaboration of our respective air defense systems, on setting up an intelligence network on the western border, and on planning joint defense measures in the event of aggression. But this does not mean that we will send troops to Tajikistan. I can say unequivocally: This will not happen.

[Sayenko] Nonetheless, at the meeting of the heads of government in Minsk an agreement was reached regarding assistance to Tajikistan, including military assistance.

[Kozlovskiy] First, it was a preliminary agreement, and, second, what Kebich said was said by Kebich only. I, for my part, can say the following: We have helped Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan during natural disasters, including sending troops and military hardware. Political assistance and military consultations are also a possibility. As for weapons, we have not supplied them to any of the warring regions.

[Sayenko] Does it not appear to you that the idea of constant neutrality has been rejected due to politics? The world community has not reacted in any way to any of Belarus's peacemaking actions, including its abandonment of nuclear weapons. As a result, the state is assuming a number of unilateral obligations, which place a heavy burden on it.

[Kozlovskiy] Yes, we want to be civilized as we assume all these obligations. Given that same high concentration of servicemen and weapons on our territory, however, even the simple destruction of tanks is too costly for our budget. Conventional weapons cuts are, after all, a contribution to European security. We want to draw the West's attention to this. But at present we are receiving assistance in the form of consultations and promises for the future. I must warn you, however: if the problem of financing conversion programs remains unresolved before the autumn, we will stop carrying them out. So far, the every-one-dies-alone attitude is holding sway in international politics. The idea of neutrality is a worthy, beautiful dream, and for the time being we are just dreaming.

[Correspondent's postscript] "We have given up nuclear weapons without receiving a single cent. But if this is good for your budget, why shouldn't we receive compensation?" This phrase by Stanislav Shushkevich could be used as an epigraph to a U.S. visit by a Belarussian delegation. The delegation included the defense minister, and the package of military matters it brought to the United States was fairly weighty. Washington apparently did not expect that ratification of START I would drag on for an unspecified period and, finally, tried to make the first "refusenik's" stance more attractive. Belarus received $59 million to carry out specific conversion programs. According to Senators Nunn and Lugar, who sponsored the corresponding bill, this is just the beginning. The International Monetary Fund has also made a clearly political decision to open credit lines to the republic to the tune of between $500 and $700 million, although by Western experts' yardsticks, Belarus is moving too slow along the path of market reform and there are no reliable guarantees that the loans will indeed be spent on economic restructuring. Clinton made it clear, however, during his private conversation with Shushkevich that Belarus may count on U.S. support more than Ukraine or Kazakhstan. "Those engaged in bargaining will not be achieving anything," the occupant of the White House observed.

Deputy Defense Minister Views Shortage of Military Equipment

PM1808145993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Valeriy Kovalev report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "Belarus Cannot Supply Its Army With Arms Independently"]

[Text] In spite of Belarus possessing a high-capacity defense industry complex which includes more than 100 enterprises and scientific research institutes and design bureaus, the republic will not in the coming years even satisfy the national Army's minimum requirements with regard to arms and military equipment, Aleksandr Tushinski, Republic of Belarus first deputy minister of defense, stated.

He sees a way out in the republic joining the CIS countries' system of collective security and in close cooperation with its partners in supplying the republic's Army with up-to-date with arms and equipment.

Bank Official Comments on Currency, Ruble Zone

WS1808140993 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Making a proposal does not mean that you must marry, joked Aleksandr Sorokin, deputy chairman of the Belarusian National Bank, fielding the journalists' questions at the press conference held on 17 August in Minsk on the issue of making Belarusian accounting checks the sole legal tender on the Belarusian territory. The draft resolution on the fate of zaychiki is in fact one of the working proposals of the Belarusian National Bank, added Aleksandr Sorokin. In his opinion, the future of Belarusian accounting checks and the introduction of the national currency is a concern of the Belarusian Government and legislature. He is sure that it is too early to speak about the introduction of a Belarusian national currency.

Some questions concerned the so-called ruble zone. Representatives of the Belarusian State Planning Committee, Ministry of Finances, and the National Bank, who were present at the press conference, came to the conclusion that in fact the ruble zone no longer exists. Belarus must define its own position on the issue. This

will be done at the meetings of the heads of governments, states, and representatives of the national banks of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine in Minsk and later in Moscow on 27 August and 1 September, respectively.

Government Grants Financial Aid to Flood Victims

WS1908104193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on overcoming the aftermath of the state of emergency caused by floods in Brest, Gomel, and Minsk Oblasts.

The resolution charges Brest, Gomel, and Minsk Oblast Executive Councils and a range of ministries and departments with concentrating all their efforts at granting financial aid to the people who had suffered from the floods. In addition, the resolution charges the Ministry of Finances with earmarking advance payments amounting to 6 billion rubles [R] from the Republican budget: Brest and Gomel Oblasts will receive R2.8 billion each, and Minsk Oblast R0.4 billion. The resolution also stipulates that financial aid should be granted to the suffering kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the form of the early payments of budget compensations for the third quarter of 1993.

Hands Over Flood Details to UN

WS1808141193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Belarus has handed over to the UN the details of a natural calamity caused by heavy floods, an official UN representative reported today. Pouring rains in late July have caused heavy floods in Brest and Gomel Oblasts. The entire financial loss is evaluated at the sum of $100 million, the UN representative added.

Moldova

Parliament Advises President To Join Talks on Union

AU1808134093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2055 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest BASAPRESS, 16/8/1993—Will the Moldovan president leave for Minsk to the general meeting of heads of CIS governments and members of the Consultative Committee at this month's end? Will the president participate in the summit of CIS states heads on September 7th, 1993? After the extraordinary session of the Chisinau Parliament was halted, the answer to these frequent questions seemed to be obvious. However, the parliamentary presidium gave another answer. It approved a decision which aggravates the more the political confusion in Chisinau. The decision advises the president and government to "take part in negotiations to create the Economic Community of the Independent States with which Moldova has traditional economic relations." The reasons to approve the decision were the following: The Parliament had not ratified the economic part of the CIS agreement; the internal market urgently needs raw material and goods; Moldovan goods should be sold on more markets; and finally Moldova's economic ties with other states should be extended. Another reason was that "most deputies and guests at the extraordinary session consented to develop these ties." Only several days ago, these reasons caused a tough conflict between the deputies. This conflict caused a huge parliamentary crisis.

There are two most important interpretations of the document. First: the presidium had merely mocked the deputies who voted against CIS. This is normal, after Alexandru Mosanu, former Parliamentary chairman said the forces in Parliament "are not favorable for democrats."

Second: after the late events, President Snegur's contacts with CIS partners became a delicate question. According to this version, the presidium claimed Snegur's presence at the CIS talks was legal.

On the other hand, Snegur received President Iliescu's declaration "with satisfaction and gratitude." In fact, this declaration cheered the non-ratification of the CIS agreement by Moldova. It said, "this is the basic condition for citizens of this state to develop and consolidate independence." The declaration also stated that Romania could grant economic aid, including fuel deliveries.

A delegation from the Chisinau Government led by deputy Premier Andronati paid a work visit to Bucharest. This was the first reaction to Iliescu's declaration. As the both sides believe, the visit was very fruitful. The agreements made during the visit must be applied immediately. Mostly they aim on fuel deliveries and sale of agricultural production. While Russia uses new taxes in the trade with Moldova. Romania gives it a hand. The political effects of this are obvious; the economic ones will soon appear. Some observers said they doubted Romania could solve Moldova's energy problems, as Romania has energy problems itself. However, Iliescu's Declaration and the actions which followed it prove that Romania will help Moldova if it parts with CIS. In this case, Moldova cannot do much, as its every step towards CIS could resound in Bucharest.

Economic Dependence on CIS Continues

AU1808135593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2055 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest BASAPRESS, 16/8/1993—The dependence of Moldova's economy on the exchange of goods with other states rose by 2.5 times in comparison with 1991; from those, by 1.6 times in the trade with CIS. The BASA reporter learned this from sources close to the Ministry of Economy. Since the USSR dissolved, only food enterprises and some light industry enterprises

could change their wares to use local raw material. Several Chisinau industrial enterprises founded joint subdivisions using foreign capital. Thus, they can enter new markets to sell production. According to the experts, most economic agents still rely on old ties with CIS states. In the first quarter of 1993, the exchange with ex-Soviet republics was 61 percent of Moldova's external trade, the quoted source states.

Parliament Fails To Approve State Budget

AU1808134293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2055 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest BASAPRESS, 16/8/1993—The extraordinary session of Parliament concluded its sessions without approving the state budget provided for 1993. It seems that such a financial uncertainty becomes a normal way of existence of Moldovan economy. Local observers stress that the state budget for 1992 had been adopted post-factum by the end of the year. Being established on a basis of a forecast which could never be confirmed, the budget for 1993 devaluated under following key-perspectives: incomes and especially, expenses. On July the 1st, the deficit was equal to 25 billion rubles and achieved the level foreseen for the entire year; tens of enterprises exhausted budget allocations and faced impossibility to continue their activity.

The elaboration of the project of the revised budget had raised serious polemics a long time before an attempt to debate it. "Being within a zone of a foreign currency and having oriented 80 percent of exports to the east, we cannot appreciate to a precise value incomes and expenses of the budget for a normal existence," declared Valeriu Chitcan, the vice-prime minister of finances. The position of Agrarians turned out to be quite unexpected. Their representative, Sergiu Fandofan, president of the Parliamentary Commission for Agrarian problems, declared: "We will not support the project of the budget as long as the subvention policy is not revised." According to statisticians, providing constant prices on bread and other food products will need budgetary subventions amounting to 50 billion rubles what constitutes 13 percent of the total budgetary expenses. In the opinion of more deputies, subventions must be offered to needy people and not to producers.

Having the mission to elaborate the project of the revised budget, the Ministry of Finances found itself in an ambiguous situation. From one perspective, officials from Chisinau assured the International Monetary Fund that the budgetary deficit will not overwhelm 6 percent from the gross national product. From another perspective, depressing realities brought new expenses. A level of 112 billion rubles for 5.4 percent from the GNP seems to be approximate enough. "Nobody estimated exactly the value of the Gross National Product," declared Dumitru Ursu, the prime-vice governor of the National Bank, so, no precise estimations are available. In this connection, Leonid Talmaci, the governor of the National Bank, estimated that the "real deficit is a bit bigger than the announced one. The deficit will continue to increase up to 60 billion roubles." Budget incomes increased during the first semester 7.2 times compared to 1992 and expenses—9.2 times. Therefore, in case such trends remain in power, all estimates which are put on the basis of the state budget will become more and more approximate. The elaborated, but not yet adopted project leaves place for more questions. Why did the Ministry of Finances took into calculations an average salary equal to 6,000 roubles, such a salary having been established by a Presidential decree equal to 7,500 roubles? The fact that other expenses were also not taken into account makes some observers to suppose that the budget "had been especially designed for the IMF," though the real situation was different.

Although questions regarding the budget foreseen for 1993, a report by the National Bank and a decision to offer to the Ministry of Finances a credit equal to 73 billion roubles aimed to cover the budget deficit, constituted the main point of the extraordinary session. Parliament did not debate them. The progress of events remains unpredictable as long as the compartment for expenses remains at Government's discretion.

Economic Statistics Reported for Jan-Jul

AU1808172993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/8/1993—According to statistical data regarding the evolution of Moldovan economy during the first six months of 1993, national income reached 77.4 billion rubles, which represents 83.4 percent of the total volume registered in the course of the similar period of last year. During January-July 1993 the volume of industrial production increased by 1.4 percent and the one of agriculture decreased by 27 percent. Turnover of external trade comprised $172.8 million with a negative balance totaling $3.8 million. The rate of inflation rose up to 35 percent. Economic experts indicate that the real volume of industrial production fell by 22.2 percent and the volume of agricultural production diminished by 27 percent.

Latest Data on Growing Unemployment Released

AU1808173193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/8/1993—According to statistics 40 percent of the unemployed benefit from unemployment allowances granted for this category of people. At the same time, by presidential decree, the allowances merely amount to 64 percent of the minimum salaries existing in the country. Raisa Dogaru, the chief of the State Department for Utilization of Labor Force reported to a BASAPRESS correspondent that some of the registered unemployed refuse offers to be engaged in the proposed domains and according to the legislation they cannot be considered as candidates for obtaining allowances. On 1 August 1993 in Moldova there was a number of 9,400 registered unemployed. The

rate of unemployment reached 0.5 percent. Experts in the domain of unemployment point out that the situation on the labor market is aggravated by the so-called technical unemployment [when people are not dismissed but have to stay at home without payment], which is not included in the evaluation of unemployment. Over the first six months this year the total number of employees, who were known by the department to be unemployed without receiving the unemployment allowance reached 15 percent from the total number of employees.

Commission Presents Draft Bill on Parliamentary Elections

AU1808171793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/8/1993—The future Moldovan Parliament will consist of 101 deputies, according to the draft bill on parliamentary elections published today in CURIERUL DE SEARA (EVENING COURIER.) The draft was elaborated by the Parliamentary Commission for Validation and the Deputies' Ethics. According to the document, political parties, other social and political organizations and party blocks can propose candidates in every election district [constituency] if they manage to gather 10,000 signatures. Moldova's territory should be divided into 51 election districts, each having 50 to 3,000 electors. Those districts will have one mandate each. Another 50 districts with several mandates will be created. In these districts, ballots will be divided into squares, each corresponding to a party, organization or election block represented in the district. "Non-retired officers (army or police), judges, prosecutors, alienated people, and those declared by court to be unable cannot be elected for Parliament," the draft bill stipulates.

NATO Official Discusses 14th Russian Army With Puscas

AU1808134493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1231 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 18/8/1993—The vice-president of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Victor Puscas, had talks in Chisinau with the president of the NATO Military Committee [Field Marshal] Richard Frederick Vincent, MOLDOVA PRES informs.

At the interview, Victor Puscas expressed the opinion that the economic, political and juridical reforms would be better promoted if the 14th Russian Army were withdrawn as soon as possible. The Russian Army is stationed in Moldova without any legal status and it is therefore an occupation army. "I consider that the support of the NATO will essentially contribute to the consolidation of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Moldova," Victor Puscas said.

In his turn, Marshall Vincent underscored the fact that the conditions created within the NATO Cooperation Council are fit for a free exchange of opinions and that this opportunity must be exploited efficiently. The NATO official said that Moldova could follow more closely the example given by the Baltic states which were settling the problems generated by the Soviet past employing the tribune of the NATO Cooperation Council.

Marshal Vincent made previously a visit in Romania on August 16-17 when he met with the Romanian president, prime minister and defense minister.

Promises Assistance for Armed Forces

AU1808172393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/8/1993—Today, an official meeting between Victor Puscas, the vice president of Moldova's Parliament, and the President of the Military Council of the NATO, Field Marshal [Richard Frederick] Vincent, took place in Chisinau. "Moldova also aims to become known in Europe through the NATO, as a sovereign and independent state which appeared as a result of dissolution of the USSR," declared Victor Puscas during the meeting. Puscas underlined, amongst other matters, that Moldova would need the support of NATO in connection to the withdrawal of the 14th [Russian] Army from the territory of the Republic.

Field Marshal Vincent communicated that one of the goals of his visit in Moldova is the elimination of information barriers. "If there is a need of assistance from the NATO in the formation [setting up] of national army forces of Moldova, we will offer the necessary assistance on the basis of a decision by a democratically elected Government," promised Field Marshal Vincent. He also underlined the fact that in order to become a neutral state, Moldova will need a sufficient military potential. "We are interested in tranquility and stability of this zone," concluded Vincent.

Russian Embassy Official Speaks Against Dual Citizenship

AU1808170793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/8/1993—Citizens of Russia cannot simultaneously be the citizens of other states and especially citizens of the self-styled Dniester Republic, which is not recognized by Russian Federation, declared Yuriy Rindin, the counselor of the Russian Embassy in Chisinau. Rindin added that along with a presentation of an application for Russian citizenship a certificate confirming absence of any other citizenship should be provided. Russian legislation cannot accept double citizenship, except some cases of interstate agreements. Recently, one member belonging to the authorities in Dniester published in the Tiraspol mass media an article recommending to obtain first of all Russian citizenship and then the one of the Dniester Republic. According to the official representative of Dniester

Republic, this maneuver allows to avoid the situation when documents are not accepted for the reason of double citizenship.

Gagauz Leader Views Relations With CIS, Russia

AU1808171993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Komrat BASAPRESS, 17/8/1993—"The fact that the Moldovan Parliament did not approve the CIS agreement is a step back from the wished wealth and a step forth to Moldova's link with Romania," stated Stepan Topal, Gagauz president, at a yesterday's press conference. The conference took place on the third anniversary of the self-styled Gagauz Republic. Under such circumstances, stated Topal, the Komrat authorities want Moldova to become a federation. However, "unlike the Dniester region, the Gagauz Republic will remain in the zone of the Moldovan currency. This is because of the geo-political situation and the missing borders with Russia and Ukraine." According to Topal, "the solution of the crisis faced by Moldova, Ukraine, the Gagauz Republic, and all former Soviet republics is only possible with Russia's help. The Gagauz leadership will fight on to be recognized worldwide; its first help and support will come from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Tatarstan, and the Tatars of Crimea," stated Topal. He disagreed to liquidate the soviets (councils) until new power structures are created. Giving land to peasants means let them perish, said Topal.

Kazakhstan

German Defense Minister To Discuss Cooperation

LD1908094593 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Report on interview with German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe upon his arrival and Kazakhstan Colonel General of the Army Sagadat Nurmagambetov by unidentified Sharayna correspondent; Ruehe heard speaking briefly in German fading into Kazakh translation]

[Text] [Announcer] Today the German Defense Minister Mr. Volker Ruehe arrived in Almaty. At the capital's airport, which was decorated with national flags, the guests were met by the defense minister of the republic; Colonel-General of the Army Sagadat Nurmagambetov and his spouse; Mr. Bracklo, the German ambassador to Kazakhstan; and other military officials. A Sharayna correspondent interviewed the defense minister on the purpose of his visit:

[Begin recording] [Ruehe] I would like to carry out talks on furthering cooperation between Kazakhstan and Germany, including defense cooperation. We would like to continue the dialogue, the foundations of which were laid down during a visit to Germany by President Nazarbayev.

[Correspondent] Our guest will spend three days here. What are you planning to show him during this time?

[Nurmagambetov] Tomorrow we will have a meeting with him. Then, for two days we will show him military troops—both ground troops and aviation troops. [end recording]

[Announcer] After the interview, the delegation left for the presidential residence.

Signs Joint Declaration on Military Contacts

LD1908122293 Hamburg DPA in German 0948 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Almaty (DPA)—Federal Defense Minister Volker Ruehe has agreed on contacts between the armed forces of Kazakhstan and the Bundeswehr [Federal Armed Forces] in Almaty today. He and his Kazakh counterpart, Colonel-General Sagadat Nurmagambetov, signed a joint declaration to this effect, according to information from the delegation. Earlier the ministers and their delegations discussed the security policy role of Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

In Kazakhstan, the second largest republic in the Community of Independent States (CIS) after Russia, there are still 104 former Soviet intercontinental rockets with 1,040 nuclear warheads. Last night during talks with President Nursultan Nazarbayev Ruehe pushed for fulfilment of the Lisbon protocol. With this Kazakhstan committed itself to fulfilling the START I Treaty on nuclear disarmament and joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as quickly as possible as a nonnuclear power.

During the talks, the Kazakh leadership expressed the wish for security guarantees from Russia. They also expressed the desire to learn from German experience about building up the navy. Kazakhstan is considering setting up a fleet on the Caspian Sea to protect its oil deposits there.

On Thursday afternoon Ruehe visited a Kazakh armored personnel carrier division not far from the capital Almaty. On Friday [19 August] further talks between the delegations and a visit to an air force unit are on the agenda. An accompanying group of deputies from the defense committee of the German Bundestag will meet its parliamentary colleagues in Almaty.

Meets Nazarbayev

LD1908094993 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Today, President of the Republic Nursultan Nazarbayev received German Minister Volker Ruehe. The president wished German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe success in his visit and expressed the hope that Kazakhstan will benefit from German experience in defense construction. The meeting between the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the German defense minister was held in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere. The visit of the defense minister to Kazakhstan will continue.

Nazarbayev Reaffirms Anti-Nuclear Policy

LD1908141393 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Last night President Nursultan Nazarbayev received the German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, who has arrived in Almaty. During the talk the head of state emphasized Kazakhstan's aspiration to be a nonnuclear state, but in exchange for this, it has the right to guarantees from the world's leading countries aimed at ensuring its security.

The sides displayed their mutual intention to deepen cooperation in the military sphere, especially in personnel training, and to exchange available experience.

During the meeting emphasis was laid on the status of Kazakhstan's resident Germans. There are more than 800,000 in the republic. They expressed the common wish that Germans, enjoying full human rights, will remain in the republic in the future. Because of this it is important to fulfil bilateral agreements that have been reached earlier: In particular, to promote the opening of the German Goethe Institute in Almaty, to develop business in areas where German communities live with help from Germany, and to invigorate the work of a

mixed group, which addresses these issues and which was set up during a visit to Germany by the president of Kazakhstan.

Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed that any funds granted by Germany are to be spend on the needs of Kazakhstan's resident Germans.

Officials, U.S. Delegation View Ties in Aerospace Industry

LD1908090993 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yesterday Vice President Yerik Asanbayev received a delegation of the U.S. aerospace corporation Aerojet, which is on a visit to Almaty. It is a leading company in the area of air and space development and a member of an association of the U.S. aerospace industry. It has implemented Apollo and shuttle programs and at present, on order from its government, the corporation puts into effect demilitarization projects in a number of foreign countries including Russia and Ukraine.

During the meeting Yerik Asanbayev focused his attention on the fate of Baykonur, mankind's first space launch facility. Having at its disposal powerful scientific-technical potential the space launch unfortunately is currently standing idle. The Kazakhstan Government wants this unique facility to serve in the interests of the republic and the whole world. The vice president suggested that the American corporation take part in the creation of an international space company and participate in the conversion of the military-industrial complex of the republic. He went on to note that Kazakhstan intends to tackle all these issues with the broad participation of international companies and organizations.

The leaders of Aerojet, its president (Wilbur Rohr), and the main designer (Jerry Thompson), displayed interest in these suggestions and showed readiness to support them and get involved in the use of the available and develop new space technologies along with Kazakhstan's aerospace corporation Toscam.

The same day members of the U.S. delegation met with the director-general of the national space agency, Tokhtar Aubakirov, and Deputy Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev. Under discussion during the meeting were specific programs for cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Aerojet corporation.

On 19 August the guests will leave for Baykonur.

Shortfall Reported in State Budget

PM1808143393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "Kazakhstani Budget: Spending Above Income"]

[Text] Almaty—The results of the state budget in the first half-year have been published in Kazakhstan. They confirm that the republic's recession has not yet come to an end.

The republic budget has been 15.2-percent fulfilled on the revenue side, and 75-percent fulfilled on the expenditure side. Revenue of 634,209 million rubles [R] has been received instead of the R795,864 million that had been planned (79.7 percent). In the first half-year foreign economic activity (budget deficit of R123,840 million), rent payments (R165,541 million), and revenues to the economic transformation fund (a shortfall of R21.5 million) failed to live up to expectations. It is noted that the budget has suffered substantial losses in connection with the payments crisis and the reduction in the production of wines, liquor, and beer.

Nazarbayev To Discuss Agricultrual Issues in Akmola

LD1908052193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0345 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulyagin]

[Text] Almaty, 19 Aug—This morning Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev left by air for Akmola where in the afternoon there will be a conference of heads of oblast administrations. There it is planned to discuss problems of supplies of material and equipment for the mass harvest in the republic soon to be started by the virgin lands regions too, and formulate the grain policy for this year and decide on questions of purchases and deliveries of Kazakhstan bread grain, including to Russia, and also loans and bread grain prices.

Tajikistan

Three Afghans Turned Over at Border Checkpoint

LD1808155393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1419 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Nizhniy Pyandzh (Republic of Tajikistan), 18 Aug—Three Afghan citizens were handed back to Afghan representatives today at the Nizhniy Pyandzh border control point in Kumsangirskiy Rayon in Tajikistan, next to the Port Sherkhan border point in Afghanistan. They had been apprehended by Russian border troops in various areas of the Afghan-Tajik border. Tajikistan authorities made the decision to give them back as a goodwill gesture.

During the handover the Afghan border commissar expressed surprise at the number of returnees, since there were supposed to be five according to a preliminary agreement. According to the information received from the Russian border troops, the question of the handover of the other two Afghan citizens is being looked into.

It seems that the humanitarian action will serve as an impetus to a speedier resolution of the problem of the handover by the Afghan side of five CIS servicemen captured on 10 August in the Khorog region and who are presently in Afghanistan.

Guard at Afghan Consul Killed; Motive 'Unclear'

PM1808132593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Umed Babakhanov report: "Crime in the Afghan Consulate"]

[Text] During the night of last Saturday to Sunday [14-15 August] in Dushanbe a guard at the Afghan consulate in Tajikistan was shot by unknown people; he was 23-year old Bakhtiyer Rakhimov, an employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The motives for the killing are as yet unclear.

Muhammad Asir, acting consul of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, told our correspondent that he is very worried about everything that has happened and the fact that the tragedy occurred on the last day of the Afghan foreign minister's visit to Dushanbe. If this killing has an underlying political reason, then it has been committed by enemies of Tajik-Afghan friendship.

Gennadiy Blinov, Tajikistan deputy minister of internal affairs, is of a different view. "The killing was, in our opinion, the outcome of a settling of personal accounts. Nevertheless it is still too early to make a clear response."

Russian Commander, Rakhmanov Discuss Border Situation

LD1808153693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov met Russian Border Troops Commander Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev in Dushanbe today. It was reiterated that the Tajik-Afghan border is a common border of the CIS countries, with all the consequences ensuing therefrom. As an initial act of goodwill, the government of Tajikistan is today handing over to the government of Afghanistan five mojahedin who were detained by the border guards during an illegal border crossing, in the expectation that Kabul will make a suitable response. The commander of the Russian Border Troops left by air this morning to visit a sector of the Tajik-Afghan border to familiarize himself with the operational situation.

Gorno-Badakhshan Official Notes Problems in Food Deliveries

LD1908102793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 19 (TASS)—If the central authorities of Tajikistan do not ensure in due time the delivery of the necessary amount of food to the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, its population will be doomed to starvation. This gloomy forecast came from the management of the local administration.

The government's plan of delivering food to the Pamir region ahead of schedule, including humanitarian aid, has been fulfilled only by 25 per cent, and the figure is even smaller for some foodstuffs, for instance, sugar, tea and vegetable oil, chairman of the executive committee of the regional council Balkhier Zamirov told ITAR-TASS in a telephone interview today. The situation is especially dificult for children who have not had all the food they need for about half a year. This concerns dairy products, in the first place. Numerous refugees staying now on the territory of the Gorno-Badakhshan region further aggravate the food problem.

According to the head of the local administration, the truck column that brought food to the area recently did little to resolve the food problem. The food will be enough only for a short period of time for residents of the village of Sagirdasht among whom they were distributed. At the end of the interview he said that the Khaburabad mountain pass would be open for automobile traffic for only two to three months. "Today this is really a life road for us," Zamirov said.

Russian Paper Views Conciliation Prospects

PM1908102993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Vladimir Berezovskiy report: "Tajikistan: If Only the Top Men Would Agree"]

[Text] Tashkent—At the recent summit of the Central Asian and Russian heads of state it was decided that official Dushanbe should come to the negotiating table with the opposition. [Kazakhstan President] N. Nazarbayev even suggested Almaty as the venue for the meeting. But will it go ahead?

The landslide of civil war that has come down from the slopes of the Pamir seems to have buried the last hopes. The political adversaries have been separated by an abyss of mortal enmity. There have been severed hands, gouged-out eyes, bulldozers burying boys alive, a collective farm bathhouse turned into a torture chamber, and villages blown up or torched. There is no getting away from it.

The opposition's shining hour was when it "sacked" president Rakhmon Nabiyev and effectively occupied Dushanbe brandishing assault rifles. That was in September 1992. And in December the People's Front led by Sangak Safarov under red banners drove the last Islamic gunmen over the Pyandzh.

There is no point in talking about winners. Tajikistan has been defeated. Some 20,000 dead, hundreds of

thousands of refugees, a shattered economy, and the degradation of social and cultural life are the price paid for fierce political ambition and the inability or reluctance to gloss over obvious problems for the sake of peace and harmony.

Where could the opposition and the incumbent regime find common ground? In my view, in their commitment to the national idea. Both sides consider themselves Tajikistan patriots. The authorities and the opposition almost vied with one another in denouncing the sins of the "Red empire" and in upholding the interests of the indigenous nation.

There are no ideological differences at all. Marxism as the official ideology painlessly dried up like an old sore in Tajikistan the day after the August putsch. It was so alien to the Pamir with its communal, semifeudal way of life and its perpetual currents of Islam. The ruling elite's problem was that it was the last to realize the fact.

A great deal will depend on who precisely comes to the negotiating table. It is hard even to imagine today how the incumbent Internal Affairs Minister Yakub Salimov and the government-in-exile's defense minister Makhmad Rasul Salomov, for instance, would talk. One, the former supplier of a furniture plant and the right hand of the late Sangak Safarov, who ruthlessly smashed opposition detachments. The other sold automobile spares under the Soviets, was convicted of underground propaganda for Islam, and personally shot a fellow villager from Garm just for organizing a "reconciliation meal" between two warring villages. Or, for instance, Imamali Rakhmanov, former Lenin State Farm party committee secretary, now chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and Abdugaffar Khudoydodov, a sharpshooter in the Frunzenskiy Rayon militia department paramilitary security forces, who orchestrated the antigovernment and anti-Russian manifestations in February 1990 and who was received with honor in Iran as a mullah and fighter for the faith.

However, other people are also being named as possible participants in the talks. For instance, Premier Abdumalik Abdulladzhanov, with his experience of working with members of the opposition in the short-lived government of national unity during May 1992. Or former State Planning Commission Chairman Buri Karimov, who has been accused of antiparty activity. Davlyat Khudanazarov, a former presidential contender from the Pamir, and Tajikistan's first president Kakhar Makhkamov, who enjoys extensive support in society and whose resignation delayed the upsurge of violence, could be extremely useful.

It will be important to avoid the sorry experience of the November Supreme Soviet session. Then all the field commanders and all leading opposition figures led by Vice Premier Davlat Usmon came to Khudzhand. However, the Kulyab contingent, celebrating victory, wrecked the dialogue and ostentatiously placed an overwhelming number of their people in the new leadership.

There was talk in Moscow during the summit of holding new elections in Tajikistan. I doubt that that is necessary today. The fight for deputy's mandates will undoubtedly turn into a political battle with mutual recriminations, accusations, and insults and complete the splitting of society, from which it is but one step to war. The Tajik people, tired as they are of trouble, are clearly in no mood for rushing off to the polling booths. All trouble in the Orient is generally initiated by the men at the top. If they would reach agreement, there would be virtually nothing for the grassroots to quarrel over.

Armenia

Update on Fighting in Karabakh, Border Region

NC1808171693 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Azerbaijan's leaders do not wish to hold talks to find a peaceful solution to the existing problems and disputes. Instead of agreeing to recognize the NKR people's right to determine their own future, they are waging an undeclared war against them. The war against the NKR has continued for over five years. One of the main reasons for this is the wish of Azerbaijan's leaders to exploit the war situation in their internal power struggle.

The clashes in Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] increased and [words indistinct] considerably broadened during the past week. The main fighting is in two areas, that is, in the battlefronts in Martuninskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons. Azerbaijan's military units also launched intermittent attacks against Askeran in an effort to penetrate the Armenian forces' defense lines. However, they were confronted by serious resistance and forced to retreat after suffering many casualties and losing military vehicles and equipment.

The fighting and exchanges of fire are localized in Mardakertskiy Rayon. As we reported earlier, the main combat operation are in the Martuninskiy and Gadrutskiy battlefronts. The Azerbaijani National Army units have fired on the rayon centers and several other towns with heavy arms. They have also used their Air Force units. As a rule, the enemy units launch wide-scale attacks after a wave of preparatory shelling. However, they have been unable to change the situation. On the contrary, they have suffered many casualties.

Active combat operations were carried out in Gadrutskiy Rayon on 17 August. The NKR units forced the enemy to retreat after serious fighting in that region. The situation in the vicinity of Yudumlu and Kusabad is serious. Both sides have suffered casualties in those areas. Several of Azerbaijan's armored vehicles and artillery guns have been destroyed. An enemy military aircraft crashed after it was hit on 17 August. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan is unstable. Azerbaijan has maintained its provocative activities. Nerkin-Karmiragyur in Tavushskiy Rayon was fired on with large-caliber machine guns from 1800 to 1930 yesterday. Armored vehicles fired on the defense positions around Yeraskhavan in Araratskiy Rayon from 0100 to 0200 today. Obviously, Azerbaijan is maintaining its military operations against our republic. Furthermore, Azerbaijan has used its military aircraft to support its operations. Three SU-25 aircraft bombed the rayon center in Kapanskiy Rayon today. An effort is being made to determine the outcome of that attack. Azerbaijan's SU-25 and MiG-25 planes were also seen flying over Idzhevanskiy Rayon today. Apparently, they were on a reconnaissance mission.

All this indicates that Azerbaijan's leaders and military commanders have failed to draw the necessary conclusion from the Armenian Foreign Ministry's statement, which warned that Armenia will be forced to carry out retaliatory operations if combat operations are maintained against our Republic in the future, Armenia's state border is violated, and the Armenian people's security is threatened. The statement should be heeded because it is a serious warning.

Further Shelling Reported

NC1808181293 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1600 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Aug (ARMENPRES)—Three hours after today's barbaric air raid on Kapan, the enemy started shelling Yegvard in Kapanskiy Rayon using Grad launchers, tanks, and artillery. The Armenian forces silenced the Azerbaijani firing positions. One Grad launcher and a long-range artillery piece were destroyed.

Teg and Kornidzor in Gorisskiy Rayon were also shelled this morning. There are injured. The Armenian forces retaliated in kind.

The borders of Megrinskiy Rayon were shelled from Nakhichevan. The enemy then attempted to launch an attack, which was resolutely checked by the Armenian forces.

An Azerbaijani helicopter fired six missiles on Kothi in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon at 1500. Fortunately there were no casualties.

Government Condemns Azerbaijani Air Raid on Kapan

NC1808164893 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1600 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Aug (ARMENPRES)—In connection with today's bombing of the Armenia city of Kapan by the Azerbaijani Air Force (seven peaceful citizens were killed, and 34 injured, five of them seriously), the Armenian Government strongly condemned the barbaric operation carried out by the Azerbaijani side against the peaceful population and said it aims at drawing Armenia into the military operations and at depicting the national liberation struggle of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh as an Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The Armenian Government declared that full responsibility for such operations falls on the Azerbaijani side.

The government expressed condolences to the families and relatives of those killed.

Ministry Issues Statement on Attacks, Appeals to UN

NC1808172293 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1600 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Aug (ARMENPRES)—The Armenia Government will call today for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council in connection with Azerbaijan's intensified military operations. This was indicated in a statement issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry today.

The Armenian Government sees the unceasing air raids on Armenia's cities and settlements and provocations on the borders as further proof of Azerbaijan's militaristic policy and of an unending power struggle within the highest echelons of leadership. Certain political circles in that country have not given up their intention to drag Armenia into a large-scale military conflict, thereby further aggravating the political crisis over Karabakh.

In its statement, the Armenian Foreign Ministry expressed concern that this policy pursued by the Azerbaijani authorities aims at undermining the ongoing peace talks within the CSCE Minsk conference and at drawing Armenia into the war.

Reiterating their commitment to the process for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Armenian authorities state that the Azerbaijani Government bears responsibility for the consequence of such actions.

Guliyev Nominated Representative to NKAO Talks

NC1808151293 Yerevan SNARK in English 0855 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 18 (SNARK)—Official sources told SNARK's reporter in Baku that Geydar Aliyev acting as an Azerbaijani president nominated the Azerbaijani vice-premier [Rasul] Guliyev as an authorized representative at the bilateral negotiations with the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Guliyev is obliged to undertake the negotiations with the Karabakh foreign minister Arkadiy Gukayan as a Karabakh representative in the period of 5 days. There should be discussed meeting between high authorities of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry: Armenian Troops Capture Dzhebrail

NC1908102993 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0924 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Baku 19.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Yesterday, August 18, the Armenian Armed Forces captured the provincial center of Dzhebrail in south Karabakh, ASSA-IRADA was told by the MOD [Ministry of Defense] of Azerbaijan. This is already the 6th—after Shusha, Lachin, Kelbajar, Agdere and Agdam—provincial center of Azerbaijan occupied by the Armenians for over a year. Seized was also the north of Dzhebrail covering area of 1,100 SQ. kms and populated by 55,000 people. According to the report of Dur correspondent from the hostilities zone, the Armenian Army is advancing to the south to seize the strategically important area of Goradiz. A highway and a railway connecting the south-west of Azerbaijan with Baku run through Goradiz. In this case 4 provinces of Azerbaijan populated by 250,000 people would be encircled. Besides, the Khudaferin bridge across the Arax River in Dzhebrail will be blocked. The bridge facilitated cargo deliveries to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Spokesman Denies Reports on Fall of Fizuli

LD1908130393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Conflicting reports are coming in from Nagorno-Karabakh. A spokesman for the Azerbaijani military department has refuted reports that the town of Fizuli has fallen and the defenders have abandoned it without a fight. The defense of the town, which is under siege, is continuing.

Aliyev Says Russian Soldiers Participating in Offensives

NC1808150793 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 18 (TURAN)—Recently the Armed Forces of Armenia have launched a large-scale offensive upon the Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy regions of Azerbaijan. About 40 tanks are engaged to action in some directions, it being known, that the crews of the tanks consist of the Russian servicemen, the chairman of the SS [Supreme Soviet] Geydar Aliyev said this during his today morning meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran A.A. Velayati.

Together with this G. Aliyev stated, that this fact can't be considered the official policy of Russia. These soldiers are to be considered the mercenaries, hired by Armenia, as well as the soldiers of the other origin, Aliyev pointed

out. Nevertheless, the speaker said, that he intends to make a statement for the foreign ambassadors in Baku on this matter.

Touching upon his yesterday's meeting with the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia E. Shevardnadze, G. Aliyev said, that during the talks the parties pointed out the analogousness of the Karabakh and Abkhaz problems. Together with this, the Georgian and the Azeri party are sure, that could cope with these problems politically.

Aliyev Appeals to UN To Stop Armenian Aggression

NC1808155493 Baku AZERTAC in English 1257 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 18 (AZERTAC)—The speaker of the parliament, Geydar Aliyev, empowered to fulfill presidential authority approached the secretary general of UNO with a letter in which he requested urgent measures to be taken to stop Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

The letter goes that the Armenian party does not comply with Resolutions 822 and 853 adopted by the UN Security Council. Armenia and a self-styled government of the Upper Karabakh Armenians impudently ignoring norms of international law not only refuse to leave the occupied Kelbadzharskiy, Agdamskiy districts, other territory of Azerbaijan but also continue to seize and burn down villages of the Fizulinskiy district trying to penetrate into the town of Fizuli, want to seize the town of Barda, other settlements trying to occupy the Dzhebrailskiy and Kubatlinskiy districts of Azerbaijan.

Geydar Aliyev thinks that the UN Security Council must take effective measures to finally stop bloodshed, protect hundreds of thousands of civil population of Azerbaijan.

New Cease-Fire Reported in Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1808132993 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, Azerbaijan, Aug 18 (AFP)—Azeri officials and Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh agreed Wednesday to a new ceasefire, to come into effect at 6:00 p.m. (1400 GMT), the local parliament announced here in the enclave's capital.

The press service for the Nagorno-Karabakh legislature said the ceasefire agreement would last five days, during which both sides are to organize a summit meeting to discuss a long-term peace accord.

Reports on Cease-Fire Denied

NC1808164193 Baku TURAN in English 1543 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 18 (TURAN)—Press service of Azerbaijan president denied statements of Khankendi [Stepanakert] news agencies on cessation of hostilities at Karabakh front.

According to the news of press service for August 18 18 o'clock [1400 GMT], battles in Fizulinskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, Kubatlinskiy regions of Azerbaijan had been going on.

Aliyev, Iran's Velayati Discuss Relations, Karabakh

NC1808184593 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, has received Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is visiting Azerbaijan. Aliyev described Velayati's visit as a new and important step toward improving the friendly relations between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Aliyev stressed in his talks with his guest that he has been making an effort to further improve and deepen Azerbaijan's multisided and mutually beneficial relations with Iran ever since he was elected chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. He said that Iran's leaders highly assess the effort made to improve relations between the two countries.

Referring to the social and political situation in Azerbaijan, Aliyev asserted that Armenia's uninterrupted aggression has worsened the situation in the republic. Aliyev stressed: Nearly 20 percent of Azerbaijan has been occupied by the enemy. More than 600,000 Azerbaijanis have become refugees in their own homeland.

Foreign Minister Velayati said that he is confident that Aliyev's wisdom and vast political experience will help Azerbaijan quickly resolve its problems. According to Velayati, Iran supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and will maintain its effort to contribute toward the removal of the confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan with no delay.

Geydar Aliyev and Foreign Minister Velayati resumed their talks on 18 August. Aliyev warmly greeted the guest from Iran and briefed him on the economic and political situation in Azerbaijan. He said: Regardless of the problems in the republic, we live in hope and believe that we will remove the difficulties and resolve the problems.

Aliyev and his guest also discussed the situation on the front. Aliyev said that according to the reports he has received, the Armenian Armed Forces launched wide-scale attacks against Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayon the night before last. Some 20 enemy tanks were observed in Fizulinskiy Rayon. Geydar Aliyev later informed his guest that witnesses have said that the personnel who operated the tanks were not Armenians, but Russian nationals. Aliyev said: I definitely do not link that situation with Russia. Undoubtedly, [words indistinct]. However, I do not link the participation of Russia's troops in the fighting with Russia.

Geydar Aliyev later said that he will receive the ambassadors of the foreign countries in Azerbaijan on 18

August. He asserted that he will ask the ambassadors, particularly those who represent the countries that are members of the UN Security Council, to visit the front lines and inform the world on what they witness.

Geydar Aliyev also said that Mahmud al-Sa'id, the UN permanent representative in Baku, has visited the front and conveyed a letter on the situation to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. He noted that he has been informed that al-Sa'id's letter has been distributed in the UN Security Council as an official document.

Geydar Aliyev and Velayati also discussed matters concerning the relations between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Vefa Kulizade, state adviser on foreign policy; Salamov, acting foreign minister of Azerbaijan; and Namik Akhundov, director of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet International Relations Department, represented Azerbaijan during the meeting. Iran was represented by 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian, Iran's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador in Baku. A joint news conference was held with Velayati at the end of the meeting.

Sign Cooperation Memorandum

LD1908083293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By unidentified correspondent; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Igor Vykhukholev] The visit to Azerbaijan by Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is over.

[Correspondent] The sides signed a memorandum on broadening and deepening cooperation in all spheres. Speaking at a news conference, 'Ali Akbar Velayati gave a high appraisal of this important document and stressed that Iran is second only to Russia in the amount of commercial and economic cooperation it has with Azerbaijan. Velayati said: We advocate stopping the war, liberation of occupied territories, and maintaining the integrity of Azerbaijan.

Replying to questions from correspondents, Geydar Aliyev said that the memorandum that had been signed was evidence of the openness of Azerbaijan's policy, intending to develop equal relations with all countries, first and foremost its neighbors.

Details of Agreement Reported

LD1808165693 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, Aug. 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have inked a letter of understanding which envisages wide ranging economic and trade cooperation.

Under the agreement, Azerbaijan accepted an Iranian proposal on joint cooperation in exploration and exploitation of oil and gas off-shore and on-shore reserves as well as reconstructing old oil wells in that republic.

The accord was signed by Azerbaijan's acting President Geydar Aliyev and visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The two countries also agreed to make joint investment for production of cement and motor cars and cooperate in textile and steel mills.

Underlining the important role of transportation in promoting Tehran-Baku ties, the two sides called for establishment of joint transport companies and charting of ships from each other.

Studies on setting up a railway link between the two parts of Astara which straddles the Iran/Azerbaijan border and Azerbaijan's participation in construction of a subway in Tehran were among other points envisaged by the agreement.

Iranian and Azeri experts are to work out an extradition agreement between the two countries next month.

The accord was inked at the end of the second round of talks between Aliyev and Velayati today.

Aliyev Terms Meeting 'Fruitful'

LD1808174993 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, Aug. 18, IRNA—Acting President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev said here Wednesday that his country's new administration is ready to lift obstacles hindering expansion of Tehran-Baku relations in the past.

Aliyev made the remarks at a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati shortly before the latter's departure for Tehran at the end of his two day visit.

He described a letter of understanding inked by the two officials at the end of their second round of talks here today as a "stride" towards rapid promotion of relations between Tehran and Baku.

The Azeri acting president described the outcome of Velayati's visit to Azerbaijan as "fruitful."

Aliyev and Velayati held two rounds of talks, mostly behind closed doors, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Velayati, referring to the deep historical bonds between the two countries, noted that periodic problems cannot be an obstacle in the way of Tehran-Baku relations.

In spite of some problems appearing in mutual relations in the past, Iran has been the second largest trade partner of Azerbaijan after Russia.

In response to a question, Velayati said that besides despatching humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic has always condemned the Armenian aggression of Azerbaijan and called for immediate withdrawal of invading forces to the internationally recongnized border.

Asked whether Iran would do something to secure the release of Azeri prisoners of war held by Armenian forces, Velayati asserted "the Islamic Republic will do its best to end this devastating war and will try to secure an immediate release of POW's."

Velayati, who arrived in Baku Tuesday returned home Wednesday after his talks with high ranking Azeri officials.

Aliyev Comments on Russian Servicemen Sentenced to Death

LD1808132593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent K. Belov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In an interview for "Vesti," Gaydar Aliyev recalled that Boris Yeltsin twice appealed to Abulfaz Elchibey, asking that five [Russian] servicemen sentenced to death [in Azerbaijan] be handed over to Russia. However, his request was not met. Unlike Elchibey, Aliyev is determined to solve the issue positively, all the more so because he has already been approached on behalf of the Russian president by Foreign Minister Kozyrev and has received a separate letter from Khasbulatov.

[Begin Aliyev recording] The issue is so sensitive and a matter of so much concern for the Azerbaijani public that it must not by any means be tackled in secrecy. It has to be resolved publicly, with due consideration being given to public opinion and also, naturally, to the will of parliament. But I do hope that we shall honor the requests of the Russian leadership in this matter. [end recording]

Dispute Between Government, Gumbatov Outlined

NC1808145393 Baku TURAN in English 1000 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 18 (TURAN)—Today Milli Mejlis continued discussion of the question, concerned proclaimed by mutinous Colonel Alikram Gumbatov Talysh-Mugan Autonomous Republic [TMAR] in the south of Azerbaijan.

Gumbatov made this extreme step when the Chairman of Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev had refused to fulfill the demand on summoning a session of Supreme Soviet and restoring ex-President Ayaz Mutalibov, who had resigned on March 1992 under the pressure of PFA [Azerbaijani People's Front], in his duties.

Geydar Aliyev told, supporters of this idea affirmed, that Mutalibov's return would bring to Azerbaijan support from Russia and opposition with Armenia. "But minister of foreign affairs of Russia Andrey Kozyrev in his phone talk with me denied these statements", said Aliyev.

Summoning August 7 in Lenkoran session of 7 south regions with population of more than 700 thousand people and proclaiming TMAR, Gumbatov addressed to Russia and Iran with an appeal to recognize self-styled republic. He has sent message to the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus with request on entering CIS, he allowed circulation of rubles, which are removed on the whole territory of former USSR. As legal bodies [words indistinct] exchanged several billion rubles of 1961-1992 in Lenkoran.

As Lenkoran reports, Gumbatov's soldiers are building fortifying region in Talysh mountains and they are mining the positions on the doorsteps of the region. The developments have taken such turn after Aliyev's open attack on mutinous colonel.

At yesterday's sitting of MM [Milli Mejlis], Minister of Internal Affairs Vagif Novruzov told, that Gumbatov had close contacts with Iranian-Shia organization "Hezbollah" and had dropped a hint, that Gumbatov's group had been financially supported by "some circles".

Touching upon the question on the role of Iran in these developments, Geydar Aliyev told, that Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his phone talk denied involving of official Tehran in the activity of Gumbatov's group.

Judging by Aliyev and his supporters statements, he does not intend to take extreme measures against mutinous colonel. The main problem, that limited his actions after coming to power in Baku, was relations with another mutinous colonel present Premier Surat Guseynov. The latter, earlier supporting Alikram Gumbatov, makes smooth turn to Aliyev's side.

Yesterday by Aliyev's proposal MM adopted editorial [state] commission on resolution of Gumbatov's problem.

Note: Territory of Talysh-Mugan Republic is 7.5 thousand sq km with population of 707.9 thousand people, about 80 percent of those are Azeris.

Alikram Gumbatov is a teacher. He was CPSU, PFA, Social-Democratic Party member, at present he is the member of the Party of Unity of Nations of Azerbaijan.

His group amounts 3 thousand soldiers and 80 units of armoured personal carriers.

Kamberov Considers Arrest 'Illegal'

NC1808152593 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 18 (TURAN)—Isa Kamberov, the former chairman of the Azeri Supreme Soviet, who have been dismissed from the investigatory isolator [prison] of the Ministry of the National Security, said in his talk with TURAN correspondent, that he considers his arrest to be illegal.

As known, Isa Kamberov was arrested July 16 on accusations of participation in the conflict, that took place June 14 in Ganja between the government forces and the mutinous units. Then he went on hunger strike in the isolator, because the authorities ignored his demand of creating an independent inquiry. He also said TURAN agency, that during his isolation the authorities exerted the physical influence upon him.

Isa Kamberov gave a written undertaking not to leave Baku. But he stated, that in spite of this restriction he intends to be involved in all the political processes.

To I. Kamberov's mind, the only way out of the political crisis is the return to Baku of the limited to the village of Keleki President Elchibey.

[Baku ASSA-IRADA in English at 1421 GMT on 18 August reports that Isa Kamberov gave a news conference in Baku today in which he said he "is against the referendum about confidence to the president. If there is a point about confidence to the president, there should be a point concerning confidence to Milli Mejlis." The report adds: "Asked about his attitude toward foundation of the so-called Talysh-Mugan Republic, Isa Kamberov said that this is an illegal action. The overwhelming majority of this region regard this idea negatively."]

Differences Between Aliyev, Guseynov Said 'Acute'

NC1808163593 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 0922 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Aug (ARMENPRES)—Baku sources report that the differences between Acting President Geydar Aliyev and Prime Minister Surat Guseynov have become acute. Speaking at the National Assembly session, Aliyev sharply criticized Guseynov for expressing extremist views on the Karabakh conflict.

In the meantime, exploiting the uproar over Fizuli, the Azerbaijani side has intensified its military operations against the Armenian border in recent days.

Georgia

Monitoring Groups Report on Cease-Fire in Abkhazia

LD1808144193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1050 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 18 Aug—An IBERIA correspondent has reported that at 1200 on 17 August, members of the joint commission met on the Gumista bridge. Six monitoring groups were set up with three people each. Three groups left for territory controlled by the Gudauta side while the remaining three crossed to the territory under the control of the Georgian Armed Forces.

At 1600 both sets of groups presented reports on the work of the commission. Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian committee for emergencies, summed up the reports and pointed out that the ice had been broken and that an intensive disengagement of the armed forces was under way. Although there were some violations, the process is going on, and that is very encouraging.

The monitoring groups continued their work today in Ochamchire. Also today, at 1200 another POW exchange took place. The mine-clearing operation is continuing.

No Breaches in Cease-Fire Reported

LD1808200593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Not a single shot was fired in Sukhumi on the night of 17 August and the following day, and no breaches of the cease-fire agreement in Abkhazia were recorded.

On the Gumista river, where fierce battles were taking place not so long ago, the river bank and other places where military forces had been stationed were being cleared of mines, in strict observance of the plans for disengagment. Hundreds of Sukhumi residents are helping to clear the town and restore the vitally important network of the town's economy. Power is being fed to Sukhumi without interruption. There is enough bread, but there is a shortage of water. Yesterday and today, water was supplied only for three to four hours.

Georgian Forces Remain in Abkhazia

LD1808211793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By correspondent K. Bzhania; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A joint commission to monitor the implementation of the Sochi agreement continues its work in Abkhazia. It can be stated quite definitely that the latest, 12th agreement, has not brought the desired results. It was reported today that the Abkhazian side has fulfilled all obligations under the agreement. However, the military command of the Georgian groupings continues its stay in Abkhazia. Not a single unit of armored equipment, artillery guns or other equipment has been withdrawn from Abkhazian territory. All Georgian groupings are still in the republic. Thus, the Georgian side has already disrupted a third schedule. In this connection yet another group of inspectors has left for Sukhumi.

Abkhaz, Georgian Sides Exchange POW's

LD1908131793 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Sukhumi, 19 Aug—According to an IBERIA correspondent, the Gudauta side handed over 10 prisoners of war to the Georgian side on the Gumista River bridge. These prisoners of war were captured a month and one-half ago near the Sukhumi power station. In return, two prisoners were handed over to the Abkhaz side. The principle of an exchange of prisoners—everyone for everyone—must be implemented only after the lists of the prisoners have been confirmed.

The Abkhaz side intends to visit Tbilisi and Kutaisi in order to make certain that the number of prisoners is accurate. [passage omitted]

Estonia

Laar Accuses Russia of Hindering Nation's Development

WS1808130793 Tallinn BNS in English 1325 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 17, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar issued accusations that Russia is trying to hinder Estonia's development.

Russian representatives are using every means possible to make Estonia seem like an unstable area for investment, he told the Postimees newspaper.

"Many people with an imperial mentality are living across the border and are getting nervous about Estonia's success," he said. "If there are professionals with a special training among them, they naturally do everything to suppress us."

He dismissed suggestions, however, that anti-government conspiracies were happening in Estonia.

"Nevertheless, it would be interesting to find out at last the people in Moscow with whom Edgar Savisaar (the leader of the opposition Centrist party) holds regular negotiations," he said. "This still remains a mystery for the entire Estonian people."

Laar says he ready to meet the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. "But, the Russian government is ready to meet only with our opposition leaders," Laar said.

Russian Navy To Remain Until Dec 1994

WS1808133193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 93

[From 18 August RAHVA HAAL, p 1]

[Text] Wednesday, August 18—Head of the Defence Forces GHQ [general headquarters] naval section Edgar Aavik and head of the Russian naval garrison Admiral Yuriy Belov discussed the handing over of the Paldiski Northern port, fuel terminals in Kopli and Viimsi and some other sites. Admiral Belov announced that the fuel terminals can be turned over only after the Russian ships have left, which will only happen in December 1994. According to Aavik, the Russian Navy has not yet decided whether to remove the scuttled missile craft from the Paldiski port or to hand it over to Estonia complete with the wrecks. The final decision should be made by August 20 when the Waterways Department is to hold negotiations on the salvage and cutting up of the craft. Admiral Belov had made an agreement with a Dutch company, which demanded that the missile craft be salvaged and cut up before selling them for scrap. A feasibility study is to be made before the operation, Aavik explained.

Status of Russian Troops, Installations in Paldiski Updated

LD1808154193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] The news that Russian naval installations located in Paldiski having been finally handed over to Estonia is not true. This was asserted by Russian Foreign Ministry Representative Grigoriy Karasin at a briefing in Moscow. Karasin said that the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia, including from Paldiski, is a subject for interstate talks.

As is known, the Estonian Government charged the Defense Ministry and the defense forces headquarters with the task of taking under their control the northern and southern harbors at Paldiski, Paldiski garrison's three hostels, and the main guard center, which had been at the disposal of the Russian Army and Navy, by 10 August. So far the harbors, the training reactors, and the training center for submarine crews are still under the control of the Russian Army and Navy.

Problems have arisen with the takeover of the northern harbor. The Estonian side is demanding that the harbor should be in order when handed over and that torpedo boats which have been sunk there should be raised. Admiral Yuriy Belov, commander of the Russian naval garrison in Estonia, has not yet decided whether they should clean up the northern harbor or request a handover in its present state.

As before, the nuclear reactors and the training center for submarine crews at Paldiski are under the control of the Russian Navy. Russian officials claim that for technical reasons it will not be possible to remove the reactors from Estonia before 1999. The nuclear reactor was last working in 1989.

Central Bank Board Suggests Revising Agreements With Russia

WS1908101393 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1843 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 18—The Bank of Estonia board at its session on Tuesday [17 August] suggested Siim Kallas, the President of Estonia's central bank, initiated talks with Russia's central bank upon revising existing agreements considering developments in economic and financial relations and changed conditions following the monetary reform, the press service of the Bank of Estonia informed ETA.

The board also discussed the Bank's work during the first half of the year. The discussion will resume after international auditors from Coopers & Lybrand present their report, the press office said.

Government Curbs Imports of Russian Wheat

WS1908101193 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1843 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 18—Estonia's Government on Tuesday [17 August] decided to impose limits on wheat dumped in Estonia by Russia.

The final decision on limiting the wheat imports is to be made by the Government on Thursday. Prime Minister Mart Laar said there were two possibilities to do so by imposing a custom value or a custom tariff.

Laar said the Government was set on continuing a tariff-free trade policy. "The import limit on Russian wheat is a great exception, for here we face a dumping by Russia," Laar noted.

The Government decided not to impose restrictions on any other agricultural products.

Laar on Possible Baltic Trade Agreement 13 Sep

WS1808132493 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1931 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 17—The meeting of Estonian and Latvian prime ministers on September 13 can result in signing a free trade agreement between the three Baltic States, Premier Laar announced at the government briefing on Tuesday [17 August]. Laar said he had discussed the issue in a telephone converstion with Adolfas Slezevicius earlier in the day.

The agreement has been talked about for two years already, the Prime Minister said. His proposal was to form a group of experts from the three states to work on the issue.

The Baltic premiers could also discuss a joint declaration in connection with the negotiations, starting in September, for concluding free trade agreements with the European Community.

Economic Agreements Planned With China, Czech Republic

WS1808132193 Tallinn BNS in English 1851 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 17, BNS—Estonia plans to conclude economic agreements with China and the Czech Republic before the end of August, the head of the Economics Ministry's international department, Tiit Reiman, told BNS.

A Sino-Estonian joint commission meets in Tallinn Aug. 26-27 to draw a protocol for regulating the future trade relations between the two countries. The commission was set up under the economic and commercial agreement Estonia and China concluded last year.

China has offered Estonia export credits worth 5 million U.S. dollars; Estonia, however, has yet to distribute the loan. Negotiations on the issue continue, Reiman said.

Estonia and the Czech Republic have prepared a preferential trade agreement that will be signed during the Czech foreign minister's visit to Estonia. The Estonian Foreign Ministry's protocol department told BNS that the time of the visit hasn't been determined.

The preferential trade agreement will be followed by an Estonian-Czech free trade agreement. Reiman said that the draft agreement may take five months to complete.

Government To Announce New Defense Minister 19 Aug

WS1908101793 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0727 GMT 19 Aug 93

[From 19 August RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, HOMMIKULEHT, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, August 19—The National Independence Party (ERSP) Riigikogu faction will withdraw both its candidates, Avo Kiir and Nathan Tnnisson, party chairman Ants Erm announced. Negotiations within the ERSP will continue and the party will not give up the right to appoint the minister since it is stipulated by the coalition agreement, Erm said. However, vice-chairman of the party administration Andres Arujarv stressed ETA that the candidacy of Avo Kiir, presented by the administration, remains in force. He added that the Prime Minister has no reason to postpone the appointment because of a minor "rearrangement" within the ERSP.

The Prime Minister's advisor Tiit Pruuli announced that the government coalition had reached an agreement and the new Defence Minister is to be announced today. "The Prime Minister will have to visit Kadriorg," he said, referring to the approval of the candidate by the President. Pruuli stressed that the candidate proposed by the "Fatherland" will be considered. According to some ERSP leading figures, Minister without portfolio Juri Luik may be approved. Luik is currently Acting Defence Minister. Prime Minister Mart Laar thanked both candidates yesterday, but added that, according to an agreement reached between the parties, the problem will have to be solved differently. Tiit Pruuli commended the ERSP decision as an example of statesmanship and party chairman Ants Erm, according to the PAEVALEHT, welcomed the solution as relieving the strain within the ERSP. He also stressed that the resignation of Hain Rebas was a blow to the ERSP, making an impression of incompetence.

The ERSP Tallinn region is to discuss the behaviour of the party council chairman Tunne Kelam and the Riigikogu faction member Vardo Rumessen at its today's meeting. Both men are accused of violating the statutes of the party by disregarding the decision of the party council.

Guarding of Ammunition Depots Reduced Due to Lack of Funds

WS1908101893 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0727 GMT 19 Aug 93

[From 19 August PAEVALEHT, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, August 19—The Defence League has had to cut its patrolling of the ammunition depots at Astangu to a minimum and may have to suspend it altogether because of lack of money, Chief of the Defence League Johannes Kert announced. Mayor of Tallinn Jaak Tamm stressed the threat the depot poses and added that the inhabitants of the Ismae district should pray. The depots hold up to 7,500 tons of ammunition.

Kert remarked that the Russians have made no effort of removing the ammunition. If they can hire mercenaries, they should also be able to employ workers to handle the evacuation, he stressed. However, Kert added that the rumours of a major threat to the city are an exaggeration. The ammunition is stored in several underground tunnels and cannot explode all at once.

Defense League Leaders Protest Decision To Disband

WS1808132993 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1954 GMT 17 Aug 93

[From 17 August RAHVA HAAL, p 3]

[Text] Tuesday, August 17—Leaders of the Defence League [DL] have been criticizing the call by the Riigikogu foreign commission chairman Vello Saatpalu for the disbanding of the Defence League. Chief of the Defence League Johannes Kert rejected the idea. Member of the Defence League Assembly of Elders Kalle Eller described it as "politically short-sighted" and stressed that it would only inflame passions in the present situation. The Defence League has an important role in Estonia's defence, Eller stressed.

Member of the Defence League central administration Aivar Pajupuu declined from commenting the Saatpalu statement, adding that the Defence League has its own view of the recent events. The conflict has its background which should be investigated in detail so as to guarantee the democratic development of the State of Estonia as well as its defence forces, the DL statement read.

Government To Merge Departments Under Interior Ministry

WS1808132693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1954 GMT 17 Aug 93

[From 17 August POSTIMEES, p 3]

[Text] Tuesday, August 17—According to Prime Minister Mart Laar, the government intends to merge several government departments under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry. The joint department is to cover the functions of the citizenship and migration departments, and to handle the problems of national and ethnic minorities. The issue had been discussed with the representatives of the Russian community.

The Interior Minister issued a decree on August 9, restricting the powers of the Director General of the Citizenship Department in choosing the staff. Director Peeter Ello commented it as a suggestion to resign. However, the Prime Minister could not answer, whether the reorganisation is connected with an intent to relieve the Directors General of the Citizenship and Migration Departments.

Opposition Says Ruling Coalition Risks Splitting Riigikogu

WS1808132393 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1931 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 17—Members of Estonian parliament, the Riigikogu, who participated in the meetings on August, warn that the absence of the ruling coalition politicians from the parliament on August 16, which led to the cancellation of the two emergency sessions on Monday [16 August], might cause the Riigikogu to split into two parts.

"We think the coalition sent a most serious challenge to the Estonian society," the statement by the MPs who were present on August 16 reads. "The decision to foil the emergency sessions of August 16 on the grounds that the questions to be discussed are not necessary or palatable for the coalition is a senseless challenge to democracy. This step further institutionalized the use of power policy in the parliament." The statement finds the action "undoubtedly tarnished Estonia's image and deepened the confidence crisis in Estonia."

The authors of the statement think the behaviour of the coalition politicians begs the question by the people what forces does the coalition stand for and how can such a conduct benefit Estonia's development towards a democratic state of justice.

The emergency sessions were called by the parliamentary opposition, which mainly consists of the Centrist faction of the Riigikogu. They were to deal with the reasons that led to the so-called Pullapaa crisis, and incident of a volunteer company that refused to serve under the DFQ [Defense Forces Headquarters], and subsequent resignation of the Defence Minister Hain Rebas. The second session was to focus on the legal aspect of tapping phones and other measures of technical surveillance that the defence police was entitled to use by a government decree.

Laar, Trade Union Chairman Discuss Union Property

WS1908101293 Talinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1843 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 18—Prime Minister Mart Laar on Wednesday [18 August] met chairman of the Trade Unions' Central Union, Raivo Paavo, to discuss the fate of the trade unions' property.

As no solution satisfying both sides was reached, the participants agreed on an additional meeting of trade union leaders and representatives of the State Inspection Board and State Property Board on Friday.

Press release by the government press office declares that the Government will not meet unjustified demands by trade unions.

The Government's session on Tuesday decided to renationalize most of the trade unions' property.

Laar said the Government held the property of the trade unions, which was received at a time from the Soviet Moscow, actually belonged to the state. The trade unions' property should not exceed the sums that come in from the membership fees.

"The Government does not want to do injustice to trade unions," Laar assured. "However, most of the trade unions' property will be renationalized."

Latvia

Belarusian Foreign Minister Meets With Ulmanis

LD1708215493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis today received Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko and his accompanying delegation. During the talks, both sides explained that there are no fundamental obstacles to preparing and signing a range of interstate treaties on border questions, on issues of national minorities' rights, trade and economic relations, as well as a political treaty between Latvia and Belarus. The Belarusian foreign minister brought with him several such draft treaties.

Belarus is interested in settling the transit of mineral fertilizers and petroleum products through the Latvian port of Ventspils. It would also be willing to become a shareholder in some Latvian enterprises. During the talks, the greatest attention was paid to the problem of national minorities. At present, there are about a 120 Belarusians living in Latvia. In Kravchenko's opinion, the Belarus Cultural Association ought to have part of its expenses funded from the Latvian state budget. He proposed transforming Number 15 secondary school in Riga into a Belarusian school and handing back as property to the Belarusians of Latgale their former high school building, and organizing Belarusian radio and television broadcasts. The Latvian president was interested in the situation of the approximately 3,000 Latvians living in Belarus. The minister assured him a Latvian school could be opened in Minsk.

Meets With Birkavs, Andrejevs

LD1808105893 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Today is the second day of Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko's visit to Riga. He met with Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs at Government House this morning. The Belarusian foreign minister stressed that much of what is already behind Latvia as the result of its development as a state is only in the future for Belarus. The main thing for Belarus is to become an independent, neutral, and nuclear-free state which would be active in an eastern European economic union and would integrate into Europe.

In the economic sphere, Belarus is especially interested in Ventspils port, which is used mainly for the export of mineral fertilizers.

Petr Kravchenko admitted that the main objective of his visit is to size up the living conditions of the Belarusian minority in Latvia and to act so that these problems are tackled at interstate talks.

After the meeting the Belarusian foreign minister met with Georgs Andrejevs, minister of foreign affairs for the Republic of Latvia. There are plans to sign several agreements at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A news conference will begin there at 1515.

Meets Saeima Officials

WS1908095393 Riga LETA in English 1246 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Riga, August 18 (LETA)—The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Petr Kravchanka, has arrived on his official visit to Latvia. He is followed by the delegation consisting of high-ranking officers from the frontier troops, officials from Ministries of Transport and Communication and from various departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

On Tuesday [17 August] the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Petr Kravchanka, and the accompanying officials were received by the Latvian President, Guntis Ulmanis. During the talk the two parties came to the conclusion that there were no fundamental obstacles preventing the two countries from the preparation and signing of a number of treaties between the states in the spheres of frontier defence, human rights of national minorities, trade and economic relations as well as signing the political treaty between Latvia and Belarus.

Belarus is interested in solving the problem of transit of fertilizers via the Latvian port of Venstpils. The

Republic of Belarus will also willingly become a shareholder of the corresponding Latvian enterprises.

The utmost attention was paid to the problem of national minorities. The Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs asked to reconsider and to solve positively political and economic needs of Belarusians residing in Latvia as well as the needs of military men. At present approximately 120,000 Belarusians live in Latvia. According to Petr Kravchanka the cultural society of Belarusians should be at least partially financed from the Latvian state budget. He suggested to re-organize one of Riga's schools into a Belarusian school and to organize special programmes for Belarusians on the Latvian radio and television.

At the same time the Latvian President wanted to know the problems and conditions of approximately three thousand Latvians residing in the Republic of Belarus. The Belarusian minister promised that a Latvian school may be opened in Minsk.

The Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Petr Kravchanka, met also with the Chairman of the Saeima's permanent commission on human's rights, Inese Birzniece, and head of the Commission on National Security, Andrejs Pantelejevs. During an hour's talk they discussed a wide range of problems, concerning Belarusians residing in Latvia.

The chairman of the Saeima's Commission on National Security, Andrejs Pantelejevs, assured the high-ranking guest that all the questions concerning the solution of problems of national minorities would be solved in accordance with the international law and the declaration on human rights. As to the legal status of people who were destined to reside in Latvia, it would be completely determined by the law of naturalization which was being worked out and would be offered for the first reading in the Saeima. The Latvian deputy admitted that the solution of a great number of problems connected with national minorities had been delayed. The reason was that the Supreme Council had no right to solve those problems because it had a large group of deputies who did not have rights for the Latvian citizenship.

Mr. Pantelejevs informed the guest from Belarus that the main conception of the new Latvian legislation would be guided by the three types of solution of problems - naturalization, repatriation and emigration (to the third countries). He stressed that relations between people would be based on people's consciousness and their choice.

Signs Border Crossing Agreement

LD1808214893 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs and Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko today signed an interstate agreement on border crossing points, and an agreement on cooperation on border issues. Andrejevs stated that for various reasons it was not possible to sign the main treaty on borders; but it is possible that Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs will do so on his visit [words indistinct] September. Mr. Kravchenko expressed the hope that an agreement will be reached on a visa-free regime between Latvia and Belarus. (?This will be possible when) Belarus has arranged its border relations with other countries and passports are introduced, Andrejevs said.

Russian Northwest Forces Deny Resident Recruitment

WS1908073193 Riga DIENA CHRONICLE in English 8-13 Aug 93

[From DIENA CHRONICLE No. 99; received via Internet on-line service]

[Text] Monday, August 9—The Russian North West Group of Forces denied that any of the Russian commanders had carried out recruitment drives for Latvian residents to volunteer with Russian military forces stationed in Latvia, and that no Latvian citizen has joined the forces. The press center admits, however, that some resident aliens in Latvia may have joined the Russian Army, if they so desired.

Baltic Presidents Agree to Summit 27 Aug

LD1808141093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Report by Latvian Radio Correspondent Anta Busa]

[Text] I can tell you about discussions which took place at the president's office earlier this morning. President Guntis Ulmanis phoned Estonian President Lennart Meri, and a talk with Lithuanian President Brazauskas also took place. As a result, it was agreed that the three Baltic presidents would meet here in Latvia on 27 August. One of the most important things here is a draft free trade agreement, which has already been prepared, and other agreements and resolutions related to it. Of course, the presidents will also talk about the progress in the talks with Russia; progress in the Russian army withdrawal; and, in light of earlier talks which proceeded in the light of a conference which took place at Bulduri in 1922, an initiative once again came from the Latvian side to create a Baltic union. This is all in the presidents' hands next week.

BNS Protests Visit by State Security Service Members

WS1908073293 Riga DIENA CHRONICLE in English 8-13 Aug 93

[From DIENA CHRONICLE No. 99; received via Internet on-line service]

[Text] Thursday, August 12—The independent wire service BNS (Baltic News Service) protested a visit yesterday by two State Security Service (VDD) members, as it considers the visit an attempt by the VDD to influence the work of the private agency. BNS informed four international journalism organizations of the VDD activities, and on August 13 plans to submit an official appeal to Saeima National Security Commisssion with a request to investigate the activities of the tutors. According to National Security Commission Chairman Andrejs Pantelejevs, the commission will consider the case August 16.

Security Service Leader Denies Press Censorship

WS1808130993 Tallinn BNS in English 1325 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Riga, Aug 17, BNS—The leader of the Latvian Security Service denied suggestions that the service is trying to control or censor the country's press organizations.

The service acts within the guidelines of the Constitution and other laws, said the service's chief Juris Vectirans.

The Monday [16 August] statement follows the service's spot visit to the Latvian press house last week. Two security service officers stopped in the offices of several media organizations to "to check the possible link between information and criminal actions." One of them introduced himself as a curator.

The security service chief said he regretted that the meetings with the journalists "did not take place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding."

Lithuania

Butkevicius Says Russian Army Pullout 'Suspended'

LD1708200293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] With less that two weeks left to the deadline for the Russian army pull out from Lithuania, Russia has suspended its troop withdrawal. Speaking on national television tonight, Lithuanian National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius said that an official note was received from the Russian Defense Ministry, stating that Russia halts the army withdrawal because no bilateral agreement has been signed to this effect. Up till now the army has been withdrawing in accordance with the bilaterally agreed schedule which fixes 31 August 1993 as the deadline for the Russian troop pull out. At present only a small number of Russian servicemen still remain in Lithuania to help with technical problems of the army withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Lithuanian-Russian talks on the pullout treaty have been deadlocked due to Russia's refusal to mention in the agreement that it is ready to continue negotiating on the compensation for damages made to Lithuania during the Soviet period.

Gives Briefing on Troop Pullout

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian at 0905 GMT on 18 August starts a 30-minute live broadcast of a news conference held in Vilnius by Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian minister of national defense; Colonel Stasys Knezys, chief of staff; and Aloyzas Sakalas, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas. The conference deals with the topic of the suspension of Russian troop withdrawal.

The moderator begins by asking Butkevicius what reports on this isssue have been received from Moscow, and what the situation is at the moment.

Butkevicius replies: "The report received from Russia yesterday was in fact not received through official channels. When the report was received, I phoned Colonel General Kolesnikov, chief of staff of the Russian Ministry of Defense, who simply told me that instructions had been sent out to the Russian military units deployed in Lithuania saying that the withdrawal of the Russian troops is being suspended. The fact that Lithuania, according to Russia, failed to adopt the correct position in the negotiations is given as a reason for this. I also phoned General Mayorov, Russia's chief authorized person for the troops withdrawal, who is in Riga, and he also confirmed this information. At the same time he also informed me that the above information would be made public on television in the very near future. He said that he is not sure what will happen next.

"I informed the president of the republic about the situation which had developed, and as promised I immediately informed the people of the republic about the fact that such a decision had been adopted by the Russian side. I also informed the international organizations and a number of representatives of states residing in Lithuania and abroad about the measures applied by the Russian side.

"I would also like to inform you about the current situation concerning the withdrawal of the Russian troops. About 2,500 Russian officers, lieutenants, and privates remain deployed in Lithuania today. These are the figures given by [words indistinct]. I can also inform you that not a single complete military unit remains deployed in Lithuania. I can also say that about 80 percent of Russia's military property has been taken out of Lithuania. Most of the heavy arms have already been taken out.

"If we count the units which had not been yet withdrawn, the figure will be about 40. Let us try to count them: There are about 1,500 (?servicemen); in Siauliai there are about 50 officers and non-commissioned officers; in Panevesys 10; in Gaiziunai about 303 at the 242d airborne troops training center; in Kaunas about 300, and in Vilnius about 120. About 2,500 are scattered

around Lithuania in small groups and in about 40 military units which had not yet been withdrawn.

"[Words indistinct] the Russian armed forces as such are no longer deployed in Lithuania, therefore, the withdrawal can be completed quickly and efficiently. Therefore the step taken by the Russian side is clearly a political step and a violation of Russia's international obligations according to which Russia had to withdraw its troops quickly and smoothly. These are the resolutions of the United Nations and the resolutions of the CSCE as well as the resolutions of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. These are all organizations of which Russia is a member.

"I also think that this step made by the Russian side, i.e. demanding to have yet another stage of negotiations, is an attempt to include a complex of issues into the negotiations, a complex of economic and political issues, while the position adopted by Lithuania is to discuss only the issues related to the withdrawal of the troops.

"I also think that in any case it is necessary to talk and to negotiate, however, our state has got a very clear-cut stance on this issue. This stance has been recorded in the referendum held by the people, therefore, this stance should be defended."

Colonel Stasys Knezys is then asked to speak about the technical side of the withdrawal of the Russian troops. Knezys replies that attempts are being made to clarify the situation. He says: "We managed to find out at the Russian General Staff headquarters that the pullout of military property and ammunition will be continued. The number of railroad cars which were assigned will be arriving in Lithuania according to schedule."

Speaking on the changes in the withdrawal, Knezys says: "The progress of the withdrawal has been partially changed. The removal of military equipment, vehicles, and foodstuffs has been suspended. On the other hand the pullout of dependents of the Russian servicemen has been stepped up. According to the figures available to us earlier, several hundred families were scheduled to remain in Lithuania and to leave later because there was no accommodation for them in a new place of deployment. Now all these families, I think, will be taken out by 31 August. Ways will be found to accommodate them on Russian territory."

On the withdrawal of military units, Colonel Knezys says: "All of them are in the process of withdrawal. Concerning the suspension, well, the handover of installations to the Republic of Lithuania has been suspended since yesterday. However, not all the processes have been suspended. The commissions are working, except that (?documents) are not being signed."

In conclusion, Knezys says that in a couple of days it will be possible to clarify the situation and to see more clearly how the withdrawal of the Russian troops will progress.

Mr. Sakalas, who is currently acting chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas while Mr. Jursenas is on leave, says that the Council of Europe has been interested in the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics. He informs the news conference that next Wednesday the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council will arrive in Lithuania to meet the leaders of political parties and the parliament factions. He continues: "Because this will happen in a week's time, I think that during this period the issues that have currently arisen concerning the withdrawal of the Russian troops will be clarified and then it will be possible to appeal to Mr. Martinez that in case there is such a need, this issue could be included in the agenda of the oncoming parliamentary session which will be held at the end of September."

Mr. Sakalas reminds the journalists that at the previous session the Russians were trying hard to push through the issue of their membership at the Council of Europe, however, this was postponed. "One of the unofficial reasons for the postponement is the presence of their troops in the Baltics. This reason has not been officially voiced anywhere, however, this was heard among the members in the lobby. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia unanimously hold that the issue of Russia's membership in the Council of Europe can be discussed only after not a single Russian soldier remains in the Baltics."

The moderator states at this point: "Because a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not present at this news conference, I would like to inform you that half an hour ago Mr. Gylys, minister of foreign affairs, again confirmed the statement made by the president that so far no official note has been received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the suspension of the troop withdrawal. The minister promised that if anything official on this issue is received by the Ministry, it will immediately be made public."

The officials then take questions from the journalists. The first question for Butkevicius comes from a Voice of America corresapondent, who asks if the minister managed to get in touch with Mr. Grachev, and what is his view on the president's wish to visit Moscow soon.

Butkevicius replies: "I was in touch with various officials at the Ministry of Defense. My talks with Mr. Grachev have been coordinated [as heard] and I will be talking to him. My assessment is that, according to the constitution, the president is responsible for the foreign policy of the Republic of Lithuania and therefore he is acting as (?a responsible leader)."

The next question comes from the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS, asking whether the schedule for the withdrawal of the troops is sufficient or not.

Butkevicius replies: "I never told you that our objective is the withdrawal of the troops. In my view our objective, i.e. Lithuania's objective, is to change the influences in this region which developed over a long period of time. To speak about the withdrawal of the troops alone is

clearly not enough. We must keep in view our neighbors the Estonians and Latvians in this matter, we must bear in mind the situation in East Prussia, the Kaliningrad region. And only when this complex of issues has been resolved will we be able to think that the situation concerning our security has changed. Therefore, I would tell you that from the legal point of view it is absolutely enough to have the resolutions and the time- table which defines the procedure in order to have the Russian troops pulled out. However, it is of course not enough for politics."

An IZVESTIYA correspondent asks for more specific details concerning the letter or the note received from Russia on the suspension of the troop withdrawal. He wants to know exactly which Ministry it came from.

Butkevicius responds: "Unofficially I even have the text of the letter in my pocket. However, it did not reach any official structures of Lithuania. The letter was sent to the Russian military units deployed in Lithuania and it was then publicly confirmed by the chief of the general staff and Mayorov, chief Russian authorized person for the troop withdrawal. The letter has been signed by Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff, and by [word indistinct] of the general staff."

Antanas Terleckas of the Lithuanian League of Liberty addresses the following question to Aloyzas Sakalas. "You have heard the speech made by the president. It reminded me of the speech made by Antanas Merkys on 16 June 1940. The speech was meant to calm and to mislead the nation. My question is: Does the Lithuanian president have enough guts so that he can be allowed to go to Moscow on his own and to negotiate?"

Sakalas replies: "Lithuania has got the president who had been elected by the people of Lithuania themselves. This is my answer. Concerning the guts, it is for the people of Lithuania to decide whether he has them or not."

Replying to a lengthy question from a RESPUBLIKA correspondent, Butkevicius say: "The Russian troops can be withdrawn on time, by 28 August. I can even tell you that I believe it will happen." He continues: "The issue of the withdrawal of Russian troops no longer exists. Some time ago I told you that the issue of Lithuanian independence no longer existed. Now I am telling you that the discussion is no longer about the withdrawal of troops. We are now talking about interstate relations. We are now talking about our security policy and the changes that are taking place in it. The changes are not of any political sense, we are talking about the setting up of a new situation in the security policy. It remains to be seen how far this situation will favor Lithuania."

Butkevicius goes on to say that Lithuania must continue the negotiations and defend its interests at the negotiations. "Our objective is normal relations with Russia. Our objective is even to help Russia to reduce its isolation, and this cannot be done through confrontation."

Aloyzas Sakalas says that although the negotiation delegation has wide-ranging powers on decisionmaking, "it will not change the will of the people expressed at the referendum concerning compensation for damage."

Giving his opinion on the step taken by Russia Butkevicius says: "Of course this is a pressure, there is no other way of looking at it. However, it is necessary to aspire for normal relations. And we have the only way to achieve this, which is to negotiate."

The RESPUBLIKA correspondent then asks how the current situation will reflect on the withdrawal of troops from Germany.

Butkevicius replies: "My point of view, and I think that the point of view of the government of Lithuania will be similar to mine because this issue was discussed, that the withdrawal of troops from Germany coincides with our objective to increase our security. Lithuania must do everything in order to allow the troops to be taken out from Germany through our territory as quickly as possible. I would say that this is our international obligation toward international stability and security."

President Comments on Delays

LD1808105193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Interview with President Algirdas Brazauskas by correspondent Algirdas Usas on 18 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Usas] Mr. President, National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius announced on national TV's "Panorama" program yesterday that he had received a note from the Russian Defense Ministry saying that the withdrawal of some military units from Lithuanian territory had been suspended. Consultations with officials have been in progress in your office since this morning. Could you give us some details on that?

[Brazauskas] The withdrawal of the troops is continuing. I cannot say that it is not proceeding, because no official notes have been received either by me or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We do not have them. However, I can state officially that the negotiations which are being carried out by the negotiation delegations of Lithuania and Russia have currently been suspended.

I do not think that such a situation can go on for a long time, so I took the initiative and talked to President Yeltsin this morning. We agreed to meet in the nearest possible future. I think that the day and the hour of our meeting will be determined, if not today, then tomorrow. This is why I invited the negotiation delegation today. Most of the members of the delegation were present, including of course the ministers who are also taking

part. Our stance and the specific articles of the agreement which—as you all know—we did not succeed in signing were discussed once again, especially the articles dealing with reparation.

I think that if we work on it for two or three days the needed material, the documents and drafts, will be produced and then a meeting could be planned.

The agreement on the troop withdrawal is not something like a concluding or the only act. The withdrawal of troops is very important and I think that everything will take place as planned; however, there are more agreements that we are interested in signing. I think the Russian side is also interested. So a normal process of communication is taking place. Documents are being prepared, and the progress of the negotiations is being stirred to activity.

I now realize that the negotiation delegations, first of all the Russian negotiation delegation, is capable of....[pauses] It lacks plenipotentiary powers, so the negotiations must be lifted to a higher level. Therefore, we (?will talk about it) with President Yeltsin.

We should meet prior to the withdrawal of the troops and I expect that we will be able to sign what has already been prepared for it and, of course, to discuss what our future actions should be and what concrete steps should be taken in our further cooperation. I would imagine that one of them should be the issue of reparations as a subject for negotiations.

That is the information for the Lithuanian public and Lithuanian Radio concerning our further steps in the negotiations and in defining our relations with the Russian Federation.

[Usas] I understood from what you have said that there is no need to be greatly concerned or to panic.

[Brazauskas] I have no feelings of concern whatsoever. There is a normal process of negotiations today and a certain stirring into action while assessing the general situation.

Brazauskas Explains Delay in Meeting With Yeltsin

PM1908093993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 7

[Sergey Balyutskiy "Commentary": "Coming Unstuck on Compensation. Lithuania Demands Billions From Russia for Damage Done by Soviet Army"]

[Text] Vilnius—Boris Yeltsin's scheduled meeting with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas did not go ahead.

What frustrated the trip? Why did A. Brazauskas decide not to rush ahead with it although he received an invitation from the Russian president?

"After speaking to several members of the Lithuanian delegation on talks with Russia and with the foreign minister and after studying in detail Russia's stance on individual articles of the treaty on the army's withdrawal from Lithuanian territory, I formed the opinion that a good deal of work still needs to be done on the text of the treaty. For instance, the version of Article 12 that our partners have proposed is unequivocally unacceptable for Lithuania. There is also some difference of opinion on other articles that must be eliminated," A. Brazauskas told journalists.

This phrase does of course concisely sum up the crux of what happened. The point is that Article 12 stipulates the amount of the damages which Russia must, in Lithuania's opinion, pay it. Although Mr. Brazauskas mentioned other provisions of the treaty that have not been fully coordinated, I would take the risk of hypothesizing that once a mutually acceptable decision has been reached on the question of compensation agreement will be reached on these provisions without particular difficulty.

What is the crux of the disagreements? The Lithuanian version of this article in the initial versions of the treaty was roughly as follows: Russia, as the USSR's rightful heir, is obliged to cover the damage done by the occupying army's sojourn on Lithuanian territory during the period 1940-1993. In the opinion of Vilnius, this damage totals $146 billion.

It was this demand that caused the signing of the treaty on the withdrawal of the army in September 1992 to be literally broken off at the last minute when then Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis was en route to Moscow. Nevertheless it also appeared in the new draft. Why? Because resolving the issue of including the demand for payment of damages in the treaty is no longer dependent on the Lithuanian authorities. Yesterday's leaders were concerned about that.

The problem of compensation—whether to demand it from the USSR or not—was put to a referendum in spring 1991, and the overwhelming majority of Lithuanian citizens then said: Yes, go ahead and demand it! So even in conditions of total social harmony a government would hardly venture to ignore that expression of the people's will. Never mind the Lithuania of today where the foreign minister was called no more and no less than a traitor by one delegation member for sending two versions of the contentious article to the Russian Foreign Ministry for study (the Russians had prior to this sent five versions of their own)!

But inclusion of this point in the treaty is as essential for the Lithuanians as it is unacceptable for the Russians. First, why should another state's referendum be of any significance to Russia? Second, if there are talks about compensation the point of departure should not be 1940—and Russian Delegation Head Viktor Isakov stressed this several times during a conversation with

Lithuanian journalists—but January 1992 when the former USSR's armed forces transferred to Russian jurisdiction.

That is the vicious circle in which the incumbent Lithuanian leadership has found itself. It is afraid to sign the treaty and it cannot survive without it. Especially since it will hardly prove possible to conclude economic agreements, including free trade agreement, without the political regulation of relations. President Brazauskas constantly recalled the importance of these documents for Lithuania during the press conference. Everyone can see that without being reminded. You only have to remember one figure: Trade with the East amounts to around 70 percent of the republic's entire trade turnover today.

Removes Group Negotiating With Russia

LD1908102293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Report by BALTIC NEWS SERVICE]

[Text] It seems that, most probably, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has completely removed the delegation for the negotiations with Russia from the further preparation of a treaty for the withdrawal of the army.

This became clear after a meeting of the president and the members of the delegation, which took place last night. It was attended by the foreign minister.

The head of the negotiating delegation, Virgilijus Bulovas, declined to comment on the results of the meeting, pointing out that only the president may make comments. A member of the delegation, Romualdas Ozolas, asserted that he had nothing to say, but pointed out that the delegation was currently not taking part in the preparation of this document. "Such was the president's wish," said Romualdas Ozolas, carefully selecting the most suitable words.

Slezevicius 'Seriously Concerned' Over Russian Suspension

WS1908100993 Tallinn BNS in English 1911 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 18, BNS—Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius called the news on Russia's suspension of its troop withdrawal "a very bad and negative statement."

"It makes us become seriously concerned," Slezevicius told BNS. The prime minister conferred with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas Tuesday [17 August].

Questioned about possible retaliatory measures from the Lithuanian Government, Slezevicius said that steps will be taken. "Of course, we will take steps, but we should first react through our state delegation for talks with Russia."

The Lithuanian talks delegation meets Wednesday afternoon.

Landsbergis Statement on Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD1808155793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] A news conference of the Tevynes Santara [Homeland Union] opposition was held today in the Lithuanian seimas. A statement by opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis on the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania was disseminated to journalists.

A report by the Russian Ministry of Defense about its intention not to observe the agreement and suspend army pullout from Lithuania coincided with information about substantial concessions made by Lithuania on transit to Kaliningrad oblast, reads the statement.

Thus the suspension of the withdrawal is a direct arrogant reply to Lithuania's goodwill gesture in the sphere of transit. This shows that Russian politicians are lacking a corresponding goodwill. If this is only the absence of coordination of actions in Moscow and Kaliningrad, it should be corrected prior to Lithuania taking measures in retaliation, says the statement by Landsbergis.

Klaipeda Responds to Suspension of Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD1908104393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Romas Jankauskas from Klaipeda]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The news that the withdrawal of the Russian Army has been suspended provoked concern among the people of Klaipeda, especially because, according to Minister Audrius Butkevicius, there are still 1,500 foreign army personnel in Klaipeda. If a person is a soldier, he is armed.

The likable commander of the Russian 3d Coastal Defense Division, Major General Aleksandr Pustousov, is currently meeting with the mayor of our town, Benediktas Petrauskas. The initiator of this meeting is the commander of the territorial defense of the Klaipeda district, Lieutenant Colonel Kazys Norkus. He informed me about what will be discussed at the meeting: The general will inform the mayor that he received an order from Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Pavel Grachev to leave an operational group in Klaipeda consisting of 20 officers and 20 soldiers. What are they going to do? They will deal with financial matters and solve problems of a protecting nature. Of course, this is only a cover. This group is concentrated at [name indistinct] street, at the division headquarters. It intends not to leave it even in September. In addition, I have been informed at Klaipeda territorial defense headquarters that this operational group made up of the remnants

of the Russian Army is installing a radio station to maintain direct communications with the leadership of the Baltic Fleet in Kaliningrad. Thus, although yesterday President Algirdas Brazauskas said on the radio that everything that is happening is normal, it seems to us Klaipeda residents that this is not the case.

President Receives German Bank Official

LD1808203793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas today received Bernhardt Walter, member of the board of the Dresdener Bank, which is the second largest bank in Germany. Walter is responsible for contacts with central and eastern European countries.

The meeting was attended by Justas Paleckis, presidential adviser on foreign policy, and economic adviser Aleksandras Vasiliauskas. The president noted that Western investments would be very beneficial to Lithuania. They are especially expected in the complex of oil refining and the transportation of its products by Klaipeda port, which could become an even more important bridge between the East and West. Foreign investors could also take part in large projects in some other branches. The president favors the opening of foreign bank branches in Lithuania.

Walter informed the president that the purpose of his visit is to obtain extensive information for customers in Germany, thus provoking the interest of German investors in the Baltic states.

Polish Official Says Treaty Talks 'Fruitful'

LD1808175493 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 1200 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Another round of Polish-Lithuanian negotiations on a treaty between our two states has ended in Vilnius. Alina Kurkus reports from there:

[Kurkus] The head of our delegation, deputy minister of foreign affairs Iwo Byczewski described the Vilnius talks as fruitful. He announced at a brief meeting with journalists at the end of the negotiations that so far 20 out of 26 articles of the document have been agreed. Another three articles still require some work on the details and a further three need to be worked on in their entirety in order to reach agreement. During the second round of talks, as during the first round of talks held in Warsaw, history was not discussed.

The text of a declaration, which according to the will of the Lithuanian side, is to be signed together with the treaty, also was not discussed. The declaration is to contain an assessment of Polish-Lithuanian relations between the two world wars.

Vladislavas Domarkas, the head of the Lithuanian delegation, when asked about the issue of General Zeligowski's aggressive act in 1920 when taking over Vilnius, said that there would be no such phrase in the Polish-Lithuanian Treaty. He refused to give any details of the negotiations before their completion.

Another round of talks on the Polish-Lithuanian treaty will be held most probably at the end of the month.